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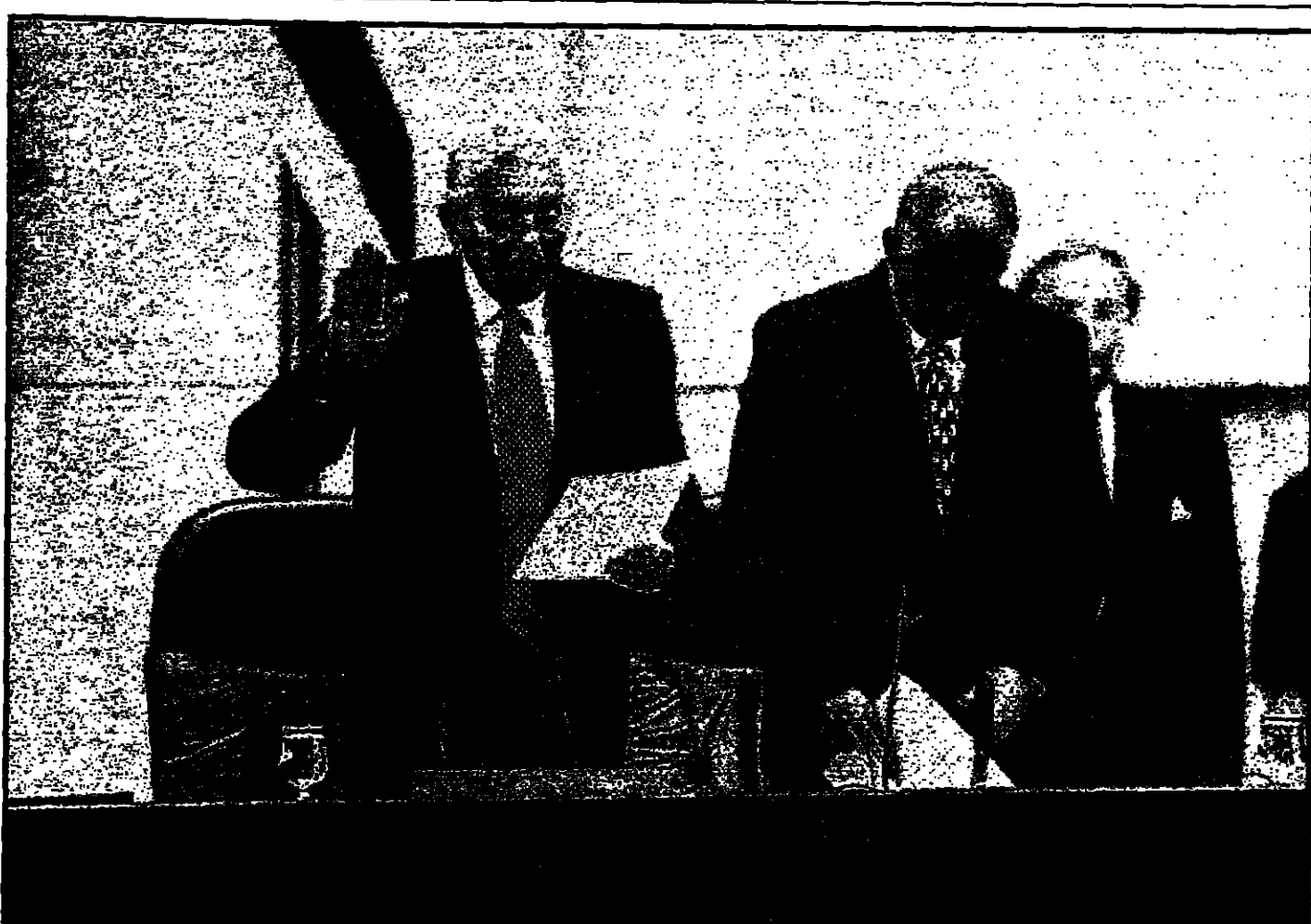
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President Ezer Weizman takes the oath of office during yesterday's inauguration ceremony in the Knesset, as Speaker Dan Tichon listens.

Weizman sworn in for 2nd presidential term

By LIAT COLLINS

To the sound of trumpets and shofarot and calls of "Long live the president," President Ezer Weizman was inaugurated yesterday to a second five-year term.

In his inaugural address before a packed plenum, which was also televised live, Weizman stressed that as head of state he plans to continue being involved in pushing for peace.

"Our relations with the Arab states and our Palestinian neighbors are at a low, and the whole peace process needs help," he said. "This is one of those cases when the president must reexamine the definition of his role and interpret the words 'head of state' in a positive light and act and contribute."

"I will do everything I can to help the government in the peace process. I will help it establish and improve the relations between Israel and its neighbors and between Arabs and Jews within the [country's] borders."

He also warned of the dangers of the growing rift between religious and secular and called for tolerance.

As the president arrived at the Knesset for the ceremony, escorted by police on horseback and a motorcade, a group of demonstrators from the Na'amat women's organization held a protest across from the Knesset. Kach supporters also held a vigil protesting Weizman's reelection.

Ironically, the coalition turned out almost in full, while a number of opposition MKs boycotted the event, even though Weizman was their candidate for president.

Among those who absented themselves were MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui), who objected to IDF chaplains blowing shofarot in the plenum and Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, who objected to Weizman's decision not to have women members of an IDF ensemble perform in the plenum, in deference to religious MKs.

At a reception later in the Knesset's Chagall Hall, attended by some 1,200 guests, there were women singers and there was

other musical entertainment by the IDF Orchestra.

Weizman made a point of greeting Likud MK Shaul Amori, who ran against him for the presidency.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu addressed the reception, focusing on the wish for the mass immigration of world Jewry during Weizman's term in office.

Deputy Speaker Shevah Weiss (Labor) complained to reporters that no opposition MK had been invited to address the reception, despite the fact that Weizman had been their candidate.

Several religious MKs attended the reception, despite the women singers.

"I think it's only fitting that all MKs attend such a state ceremony," said Shas MK David Azoulay.

Asked if the singing women didn't bother him, he smiled and said: "Why look for divisions? And anyway, you can't even hear it above the rest of the noise."

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PM: I never agreed to 13%

By JAY BUSHINSKY,
 HILLEL KUTLER,
 and news agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday denied offering to withdraw from 13 percent of the West Bank and contended that media reports to the contrary were patently untrue.

Meanwhile, US State Department spokesman James Rubin, following yesterday's surprise meeting between Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in London, said that Washington would not water down its central proposals for breaking the deadlock in negotiations.

"When it comes to the key elements of our proposal, we are not watering them down," he said.

Netanyahu, speaking to reporters after meeting Swiss President Flavio Cotti late last night, said that "what we require is flexibility of thinking by all the parties and not dictates and ultimatums."

He said he hopes Albright will "try to foster the attitudes necessary to facilitate progress and

understanding between the sides."

Earlier, at a hastily convened news conference held immediately before Netanyahu attended President Ezer Weizman's inauguration for a second term – and less than two hours after he returned from the US – he said that "several things have been reported, such as my agreement to a 13 percent withdrawal, which is not true."

PA: No deviation from US plan, Page 2

Netanyahu reacted to reports that the purported pullback would be staged over a period of several months, while the final phase of the handover would be contingent on full PA compliance with all of its commitments to Israel and the US.

A senior government official quoted Netanyahu as having told aides who accompanied him on his US trip, "At no stage did I mention any figures or percentages."

As the Israeli-US contacts ensued, unconfirmed accounts

spread in Washington that the IDF would relinquish 9 percent of the West Bank (as agreed by the cabinet) plus 2 percent which was offered to the PA in the abortive first redeployment, and an additional 2 percent at a later stage, subject to Netanyahu's conditions.

But cabinet secretary Dan Naveh refused to relate to the very idea of progress being made. Asked about "the end of a thread" which Netanyahu said had been discovered in the previous 48 hours, Naveh scoffed and replied, "I left it in my hotel room."

Netanyahu's legal adviser, Yitzhak Molcho, was more congenial. "There is progress," he said, but declined to elaborate.

He said a meeting between the two sides which had been scheduled for yesterday would not take place. This evidently was because special envoy Dennis Ross had just taken off for London to report to Albright.

Rubin was even more restrained than Molcho. "We didn't achieve a breakthrough," he said in London. "On the contrary, we're working hard to overcome differences."

See PM, Page 2

Bar-Ilan denies having said Sara Netanyahu is unstable

By MARILYN HENRY
 and Jerusalem Post Staff

David Bar-Ilan, the prime minister's director of communications, is quoted in a profile of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu published in the May 25 issue of *The New Yorker* as saying that "Sara [Netanyahu] is not the most stable woman in the world."

"Now, she only appears at the appropriate things: receptions for children, things for the retarded or the disadvantaged," he continues. "And it works. It's OK. Finally it's becoming boring to Israelis. Had she run half-naked through the streets it might have been something else, but it's under control."

Concerning the prime minister's affairs with women, Bar-Ilan is quoted as saying: "One thing is to have an affair with a shiksa – but a married woman! With a shiksa

even the rebbe's do it. But a married woman! Now Bibi'll go to synagogue on Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, maybe he's gone to the Western Wall or he'll say the phrase 'With God's help.' But he's not fooling anyone."

Bar-Ilan adds that in his view, Netanyahu made a great mistake in voluntarily admitting to an extramarital affair on television.

"The crime here is getting caught, and he wasn't caught," he is quoted as saying.

Bar-Ilan denied the remarks attributed to him.

"I did not say any of those things and they did not come back to me to check. This is outrageous," he said.

Netanyahu, asked about the report at yesterday's Jerusalem news conference after returning from the US, replied: "As for articles, gossip ones or otherwise, we do not deal with these things."

When asked about his article's content, *New Yorker* writer David Remnick said: "The answer is self-evident. I would not have quoted him if he didn't say it."

Interviewed by phone from St. Petersburg, Russia, Remnick, who won a Pulitzer Prize four years ago, said yesterday that, "While Mr. Bar-Ilan may regret saying some of the things, he did say them."

Remnick, who had interviewed Bar-Ilan previously for a story about Natan Sharan, characterized the interview as "perfectly friendly" and on the record.

However, the interview, which took place more than a month ago, was not taped.

"He did say some acute things," Remnick said. "He spoke very frankly, but that is not unusual in Israel."

Jay Bushinsky contributed to this report.

US Justice Department, 20 states sue Microsoft

By MICHAEL J. SHIFFEN

WASHINGTON (AP) – The US Justice Department and 20 state attorneys-general sued Microsoft yesterday, charging that it illegally thwarted competition to protect and extend its monopoly over personal computing software.

The federal lawsuit sought a preliminary injunction that would force Microsoft to include the major rival to its Internet browser, Netscape's Navigator, on its Windows 98 operating system, to give consumers a choice between the two.

The separate lawsuit by the 20 states and the District of Columbia alleged that, through a wide variety of illegal business practices, Microsoft tried to leverage its monopoly on operating systems

into dominance of the Internet browsing market.

The federal and state officials told a Justice Department news conference that Microsoft initially approached Netscape and offered to divide the market rather than compete, but that Netscape rejected that proposal.

"Microsoft used its monopoly power to develop a choke hold on the browser software needed to access the Internet," Attorney General Janet Reno said.

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates asserted "the government is wrong to attack innovation" and said the suits were without basis.

"This is a step backwards for America, for consumers and for the personal computer industry that is leading our nation's economy into the 21st century," he said.

Assistant Attorney-General Joel Klein said Microsoft could avoid the injunction by separating its browser, Internet Explorer, from the Windows 98 operating software that Microsoft released to computer manufacturers yesterday.

But the company has said the browser is now integrated into the Windows 98 operating software.

The injunction also would allow computer manufacturers to pick which browser or browsers they want to include on their machines and to alter the first screen that users see from the one designed by Microsoft.

Klein said the phenomenally successful Microsoft had subjected its competitors to "a barrage of illegal conduct."

"Inventors and investors cannot

and will not develop and market innovative software programs if they know that Microsoft can use its Windows monopoly to block the distribution of their programs and to force consumers to buy Microsoft's competing products," Klein said.

The lawsuits, which could produce one of the largest trials in antitrust history, were filed after negotiations to avert them broke down over the weekend when Microsoft withdrew some concessions it had offered.

The federal complaint said that in May 1995, Microsoft proposed to Netscape that Netscape's browser, now used by 60 percent of computer owners, become the sole browser for those with non-Windows operating systems, while Microsoft would supply the

sole browser for computers operated by Windows.

Windows, however, is the operating system on 90% of the nation's personal computers, and Netscape rejected the proposal.

The complaint said Microsoft required computer manufacturers to license and install its browser as a condition of licensing the existing Windows 95 operating system, and that Microsoft forces computer manufacturers to adopt a uniform first screen sequence of Microsoft's design.

It said Microsoft has illegal contracts with Internet content providers to give them one-button access on the Windows active desktop feature, on condition they don't reach agreements for one-button access on competitors' browsers.

According to the facts, on any route on which El Al barred smoking, other airlines flying that route would do the same.

Hausner said that the smoking ban pleases the large majority of passengers – whether they are smokers or not – and airline staff.

Airlines have also found that damage to their aircrafts' interior, including upholstery, carpeting, and air filtration systems, is much reduced when smoking is barred, he added.

Suharto likely to set conditions for leaving

By IAN MACKENZIE

JAKARTA (Reuters) – President Suharto is expected to set at least four conditions in return for stepping down from the office he took up amid political and economic chaos in the mid-1960s, political sources said yesterday.

Suharto will seek assurances on the unity of the armed forces, maintenance of law and order, adherence to the constitution, and an agreement to continue the development policies of his so-called New Order government, the sources said.

Parliamentary Speaker Harmoko issued a statement earlier in the day calling on the president to quit in the interests of national unity, only two months into Suharto's seventh five-year term.

Political sources said Harmoko's call would have been orchestrated with the president to ensure a cloak of constitutionality for his departure after 32 years in power.

The leaders of the five factions in the 500-member parliament are due to meet today, after which Harmoko is expected to convey to the 76-year-old president their agreement that he should stand down.

The political sources said the departure process would likely take place over several days.

"He will probably ask for a little time. If he went tomorrow everything will be a scramble," one said. Under Article 8 of the constitu-

tion, Suharto would be replaced by Vice President Jusuf Habibie, although political analysts questioned how long the mercurial former aviation engineer might remain in power.

"Should the president die, cease from executing or be unable to execute his duties during his term of office, his office shall be taken by the vice president until the expiry of that term," the article states.

The political sources said Suharto was also against a special session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), which normally meets only once in five years for the presidential election and to approve the broad outline of government policy.

Although the MPR is made up of the 500 members of parliament, the National Assembly, and 500 appointed members, the sources said Suharto is concerned that a session he does not control might rescind development and other policies he has put in place over the past three decades.

"Suharto will want his departure on his terms without a special session, for fear the whole structure could collapse," a source said.

The sources said Harmoko would follow accepted rules in asking the president to step down.

It was not immediately clear what face-saving excuse Suharto would give for resigning – the most likely was health and age.

All flights to and from Israel to be smoke-free as of June 1

By JUDY SIEGEL

All airline flights to and from Israel will, from June 1, be completely smoke-free.

This breakthrough – long awaited by anti-tobacco activists, airline personnel, and most passengers – was made possible by the Transport Ministry, under pressure from the High Court of Justice.

A petition against El Al and Arkia by Amos Hausner, legal adviser to the Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking, two years ago on behalf of stewards and frequent flyers resulted in the court pushing the ministry to reach an

agreement to halt smoking on flights.

Since 1988, smoking has been allowed by law on flights longer than two hours; during the past two years, negotiations led to an expansion of no-smoking flights, first to Europe, more recently to the Americas, and later Africa.

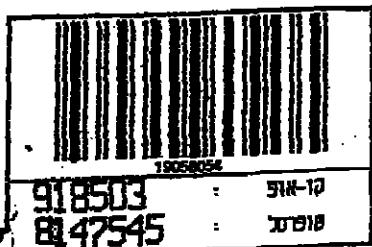
Now smoking will be completely banned to and from all destinations, including the Far East. Hausner said this arrangement was made possible with the

cooperation of Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom, his predecessor Yitzhak Levy, El Al, and foreign airlines flying to Israel.

It brings Israel to the forefront of countries concerned about airline passengers' and staffs' health.

Only Canada can boast the same achievement, he said.

Although for a number of years opposed to smoking bans, El Al had, in recent years, reached reciprocal agreements with foreign airlines.



NEWS

in brief

Meshulam men held in prison official's killing

Six followers of Uzi Meshulam were arrested yesterday on suspicion of involvement in the planning of the May 6 assassination of Dr. Ya'acov Ziegelboim, chief physician for the Prisons Service. The six are probably to face a remand hearing today.

Mordechai worried about Syrian missiles

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that Syria's deployment of ground-to-ground missiles creates an "uncomfortable balance and a complex problem for the center of the country." A senior intelligence officer said the Syrians are continuing to develop strategic missiles including Scud-Cs and VX gas, using North Korean knowhow and Russian raw materials. The missiles can reach all of Israel.

The officer also noted that Iran's ground-to-ground missile could be tested by the end of 1999. He described this as "an historic turning point" in the history of Iran's armaments.

Liat Collins

Men who raped retarded boy sent to prison

The Beersheba District Court yesterday sentenced two Sderot men to prison terms for raping and sodomizing a retarded boy. Mordechai Gadimov, 42, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment plus two suspended and Jan Haimov, 24, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and another two years suspended. Both men were convicted on the basis of their confessions and the judges determined that Haimov had committed the more serious offenses.

Itim

Israelis, Palestinians raise \$50 million

Israeli and Palestinian investors, along with the World Bank, have raised \$50 million for joint ventures, the Peres Center for Peace said yesterday. The investments will go to companies involved in hi-tech, tourism, and agriculture as well as infrastructure projects, said Lior Chorve, a spokesman for the center which promotes peace through economic development.

The project will be formally launched today in Bethlehem in a ceremony attended by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, former prime minister Shimon Peres, and World Bank President James Wolfensohn.

AP

Brooklyn assemblyman's trial opens

The trial of Brooklyn Assemblyman Dov Hikind, charged with allegedly accepting payoffs, opened yesterday in federal court in New York.

Hikind, of Borough Park, has denied receiving the funds, which prosecutors contend came from a social-services group, the Council of Jewish Organizations, after Hikind steered government contracts to the group.

The council received millions of dollars in federal, state and city funds each year for job training, aid to the elderly and children and services for businesses and immigrants.

It has since closed, leaving other Jewish agencies scrambling to provide the services.

Marilyn Henry

PM

Continued from Page 1

After her meeting with Arafat, Albright was more upbeat in fielding a reporter's question on a possible breakthrough. "We'll see. We had good constructive talks," she said as she left.

"I have not received any reports about Mrs. Albright's talks with Chairman Arafat," Netanyahu said.

The two negotiating teams evidently will not resume their discussions until later this week or early next at the earliest. This was evidenced by the fact that Naveh changed his plans to board Netanyahu's plane for the flight home.

Albright's surprise meeting with Arafat is not an indication that Netanyahu told Ross anything dramatic when they met in Washington Sunday evening, a senior administration official said yesterday.

The US did make progress in its talks with Netanyahu, the official added. But in both its public and private comments, the administration appeared to be lowering expectations of big developments before the results of the Albright-Arafat meeting became known.

In a roundtable discussion at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's conference, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk said that no major development is in the offing.

"You may have heard reports in the Israeli press that suggest a breakthrough is imminent, that agreement has been reached," Indyk said. "I am here to tell you that that is not the case. We don't have an agreement. We are working seriously with Prime Minister Netanyahu. There are still gaps that remain to be closed and it's still difficult-going. But as long as we feel there is a chance to make

progress and to reach agreement, we will be engaged in making that effort."

At a press conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in London yesterday, President Bill Clinton said the talks are so sensitive now that he should not comment on the substance of Netanyahu's meetings in Washington.

"The posture of the talks now is such that anything I say publicly to characterize the position taken by Mr. Netanyahu or anybody else... would almost certainly reduce the chances of our being able to get an agreement which would move the parties to final status" talks, Clinton said.

"The parties are working. They have been working hard. In my judgment, they have been working in honest, earnest good faith. And we have our hopes, but I think it is important not to raise false hopes or to characterize the talks at this time. They are just in a period when anything we say publicly will increase the chances that we will fail."

Meanwhile, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and French President Jacques Chirac have proposed convening a Middle East peace conference.

"This conference would maintain and confirm all existing principles and agreements," a joint statement said after the two met in Paris yesterday.

They said the conference they proposed aimed "at giving new hope, a new energy to the peace process."

No details were given on when or where the conference would take place.

Liat Collins adds:

Members of the National Religious Party's central committee yesterday presented the party's MKs with a petition, signed by 350 of them, demanding the party abandon the coalition if the government decides on a further redeployment.

GSS defends use of 'torture'

Tells court harsh interrogation has helped prevent terror attacks

By DAN IZENBERG

By uncovering Palestinian terror cells last year, the General Security Service foiled plans to carry out a spate of suicide attacks, car and roadside bombings, abductions, and shootings, the GSS said yesterday, in a deposition to the High Court of Justice.

The deposition was submitted in advance of a hearing before a panel of nine justices on the question of whether the GSS may in principle use interrogative techniques which the petitioners describe as torture.

The techniques include violent shaking, placing hoods over detainees and forcing them to listen to loud music, and sleep deprivation.

The six petitions, submitted by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, the Public Committee Against Torture and the Center for the Protection of the Individual, will be heard tomorrow.

In response to the ACRI petition against violent shaking, the GSS claimed that without this technique they would not have uncovered various terrorist plots, including following:

• In September 1997, the GSS uncovered a Hamas cell operating out of Bethlehem and Jerusalem that had carried out two bombings in the Neve Sha'an neighborhood of Tel Aviv before being captured.

They planned many more bombings: in the Mahaneh Yehuda market, on Ben Yehuda St. and in

Jerusalem Mall in the capital, and on beaches in Eilat and Tiberias.

They also planned to kidnap leading political, judicial, academic and media figures and soldiers.

• Another Hamas cell, operating out of Nablus and Jerusalem, was uncovered in November 1997, after it carried out the suicide attacks in Mahaneh Yehuda market and Ben-Yehuda St. last summer.

They also operated a bomb factory and stockpiled 600 kg. of explosives. Cell members planned to carry out suicide attacks in the central bus stations of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa and at the shopping center in Ariel.

They planned a car bomb sui-

cide against an Israeli bus on the Ramallah-Nablus highway and the seizure of a foreign embassy, to swap the diplomats for jailed terrorists.

They planned to set off a roadside bomb at the entrance to Pissagat Ze'ev, in Jerusalem, and to plant anti-personnel mines and open fire at settlers in Alon Moreh and Shavei Shomron as well as at targets on Mt. Gerizim.

According to the deposition, these examples of terrorist activity were enough to prove that the current security situation was difficult and that "in these circumstances, the GSS interrogators have no other choice but to resort, from time to time, to special and unusual methods."

AP adds:

UN experts ruled yesterday that Israel should immediately cease violating the global accord against torture in its treatment of Palestinian prisoners.

The Committee Against Torture acknowledged Israel's claim that it needs tough tactics to counter terrorism threats, but said, "this cannot justify torture."

It noted that the Convention Against Torture, which Israel has signed, declares that no public emergency of any kind justifies the use of torture.

Israeli diplomats expressed "surprise and disappointment" at the conclusions, but said the 10-member panel of independent experts had a "change for the better in tone" since it ruled against Israel last year.

Mordechai: No proof Arafat smuggling arms

By LIAT COLLINS

There is no unequivocal verification of the reports that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is smuggling arms and terrorists in his personal helicopter, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday. He added that the matter is being "checked through the appropriate channels."

Mordechai was talking to reporters following the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting.

During the meeting a senior military intelligence officer reportedly confirmed the reports in answer to a question by MK Ze'ev Begin (Likud).

Begin said Mordechai's response was "a worrying attempt to cover up for Arafat and to prepare the ground among the public for giving parts of Judea and Samaria to the PLO. Like the green light Arafat gave to terror last year, there are sufficient reports in the security establishment concerning the helicopter to examine the cooperation between the PLO and other terror groups."

Mordechai reportedly told the committee that he had issued an instruction that "if there are intelligence reports above a certain level of arms smuggling, every vehicle should be checked."

Begin responded by saying: "If that's a formal conclusion as a commander, that every vehicle should be checked, you, Mr. Defense Minister, are not doing your job."

This led Mordechai to counter: "Don't give me grades!"

Mordechai said that the current wave of unrest has subsided but is not over. He said it had been organized by the PA to show it could get the masses into the street and as a demonstration of strength against Hamas.

Ben-Eliezer calls for unity gov't

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who is considered close to Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, yesterday urged forming a national unity government headed by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, to move the peace process forward and bypass the influence of the religious parties.

Ben-Eliezer, who is the first senior Labor MK openly calling for a national unity government, said Barak knows of his position, "which is the result of profound and systematic thought," but would not say whether Barak agrees with him or not.

Barak recently stated that a unity government is not on the agenda, but Labor MKs wondered yesterday whether Ben-Eliezer was voicing Barak's view after all.

Ben-Eliezer said a Likud-Labor unity government is essential for two main reasons: to neutralize the radical right wing, which is stalling the peace process, and to prevent a draining of votes from the two major parties to religious ones.



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat meets US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in London yesterday.

(AP)

PA: No deviation from US plan

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority yesterday reiterated its rejection of any US proposal that backtracks from Washington's original demand for an Israeli handover of 13.1 percent of the West Bank to full Palestinian control and a third IDF redeployment.

Following yesterday's meeting between PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in London, Arafat said that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had offered nothing new during recent meetings with US officials in Washington.

"Unfortunately Mr. Netanyahu has not

offered anything tangible to Mrs. Albright," he told AP.

"We have nothing to contribute in this regard except to say that we stick by the Oslo Accords and we understand that the current US proposals are not an alternative," PA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdul Rahman told the Voice of Palestine before the meeting. "The Palestinian side is unable to accept anything less than the US proposals."

Abdul Rahman said the PA will not budge from its current position. This includes both a 13.1 percent handover of the West Bank to full PA control and a pledge of a third redeployment during the next year.

At the same time, PA Higher Education

Minister Hanan Ashrawi said in an interview on Syrian television that she does not believe that violence is the answer to the current Israeli-Palestinian stalemate.

"The Palestinian confrontations represent, I believe, an expression of national will and this is legitimate resistance," she said. "But the circumstances testify that the armed struggle is out of the question now and does not go together with the type of our demands in this period."

On the same program, Fatah leader Marwan Barghout said the PA continues to strive for national reconciliation. He said the PA will continue the dialogue with Hamas and other Palestinian opposition groups.

6 Palestinians injured in Hebron

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinians hurled firebombs and stones at IDF positions in Hebron's Jewish Quarter yesterday in the fifth straight day of clashes in the city.

IDF soldiers responded with rubber bullets and tear gas.

Palestinian sources said six Arabs were wounded.

The violence kept away visiting Swiss President Flavio Corti, who had been scheduled to tour Hebron yesterday. Instead, Corti visited Ramallah and met with members of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

IDF and Palestinian sources also reported

violence in Bethlehem and outside Ramallah. In Bethlehem, a Border Police officer participating in a joint patrol with Palestinian Police was hurt when a rock was hurled at his jeep. The officer was treated at the scene.

The IDF allowed Israelis to enter cities controlled by the PA after its police agreed to joint patrols with their Israeli counterparts.

New parties may be forming on Right

"I would rather take poison than vote for [Binyamin] Netanyahu," right-wing activist Elyakim Ha'etzi said yesterday, explaining moves toward the creation of one, and possibly two, new political parties on the Right.

"He has lied to us, deceived us, disappointed us, and laughed at us."

The "us" in Ha'etzi's tirade is the Israeli Right, which, according to Ha'etzi, will be without a political party if Netanyahu carries out a 13 percent withdrawal in the territories.

"There has been an anomaly on the Israeli political scene for years," said Ha'etzi, formerly an MK with the defunct Tehiya, a small right-wing party that collapsed in 1992. "The Likud now says it is a centrist party, but the right doesn't believe it, and treats it as a right-wing party. But if Netanyahu carries out the next withdrawal, this false love affair of the nationalist camp with the centrist Likud will end, and it will not get the Right's votes. But then there is another problem, there is no other right-wing party."

In an apparent attempt to solve this problem, two right-wing groups are putting out feelers to organize new parties. One is headed by Geshar MK Michael Kleiner, and the other by senior activists, such as Beit El Local Council head Uri Ariel. The latter group, made up of religious

activists, is holding an organizational meeting today in Jerusalem.

Ha'etzi said that Mordechai does not count as a representative of the Right because "it has never taken off and only wins two or three seats," and because it lacks "real appeal."

The National Religious Party, he said, is now facing a test. If it brings down the government over the next withdrawal, then - in Ha'etzi's eyes - it legitimately can be considered the party of the right wing and will garner 15-20 seats in the next Knesset. If it doesn't, he predicted, it will lose its right-wing constituents and fall from nine to five seats.

The problem with the NRP, and one reason why Ha'etzi is in contact with Kleiner rather than the other group, is because it does not appeal to non-religious right-wing voters.

"If Netanyahu carries out the next withdrawal," Ha'etzi said, "he takes himself out of national camp, and there is no longer any difference between him and [Labor Party leader] Ehud Barak. Both say Beit El and Ofra will remain forever, and both are difficult to believe. If Netanyahu goes along with the withdrawal, there will be no difference."

Barak, said Ha'etzi, also understands that many on the Right will have difficulty seeing

IN CONTEXT

By HERB KENNEDY

any difference between him and Netanyahu, which is why he went to Beit El and Ofra last week, and proclaimed that those settlements will remain in Israeli hands forever.

Ha'etzi said there are thousands of voters who, because they feel deceived that Netanyahu has carried on with the Oslo process, will want to punish him by not voting for prime minister in the next election - which will only help Barak.

Uri Ariel said that he is well aware of what happened in 1992, when Tehiya and small right-wing parties headed by Moshe Levinger and Eliezer Mizrahi failed to pass the voter threshold, essentially robbing Yitzhak Shamir of victory. But this time, with split voting for the Knesset and prime minister, things are different, he said.

"There are still dangers," Ariel said, "but the situation is different now because the system is different."

He said the decision whether to form a new party depends less on Netanyahu, and more on the NRP. "We hope that Netanyahu will stand firm and not give in, and we will wait and see," Ariel said. "But if he does not stand his ground, and the NRP does not do something against this, the feeling is that we will have to take

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Michal and family
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YITZHAK MODA'I

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IDF wounds 3 Amal gunmen north of zone

By DAVID RUDGE

At least three gunmen from the Amal Shi'ite movement were reported wounded in an operation by an elite IDF unit north of the security zone late Sunday night.

The IDF troops all returned safely to their bases yesterday morning.

The soldiers were operating in the area of Majdal Salim village, a known hotbed of activity by both Hizbullah and Amal.

The IDF Spokesman said the soldiers spotted a group of gunmen in the area, opened fire at them, and hit several.

The operation was supervised by the IDF's Galilee region commander, Brig.-Gen. Efi Eitam.

Reports from Lebanon said three local members of the Amal militia in the Majdal Salim area were wounded in the attack, one of them seriously; but Hizbullah Radio said there had been no casu-

alties among its activists.

The statement claimed that the IDF had used an experimental weapon believed to be a new guided missile in the attack. There was no confirmation of the claim from any other sources.

Security sources said the operation north of the zone was part of Northern Command's ongoing policy of hitting gunmen in their own backyard and putting them on the defensive.

The preemptive strikes are also aimed at thwarting attempts by Hizbullah, Amal, and rejectionist Palestinian organizations to plant roadside bombs or carry out ambushes in the zone.

There has been a marked drop in such activities over recent months, during which Hizbullah has concentrated instead on long-range mortar and anti-tank missile attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions in the zone.

Meanwhile, reports from Lebanon said IAF helicopter gunships struck at Hizbullah targets in the Soujoud region in the north eastern sector of south Lebanon early yesterday morning.

There were also reports of long-range mortar attacks primarily on SLA outposts in the security zone yesterday. There were no reports of any casualties in the incidents.

In Beirut yesterday, visiting German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Werner Hoyer said that UN Resolution 425, which calls for an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops, must be implemented.

"We support the implementation of the resolution without any amendments... and in full, to be able to achieve security and stability for the people of the region," Hoyer said after talks with Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez.

Arab culture fest opens in Haifa

By DAVID RUDGE

A festival of Arab culture is being staged in Haifa and 40 towns and villages throughout the country over the next few weeks.

Despite its relatively meager budget of just NIS 1.2 million, the "Arab Culture Month," being organized by Haifa's Beit Hagefen Arab-Jewish Center, is the biggest in the 16 year-old history of the event. It will include performances by a 12-member Jordanian acting troupe headed by comedian and impersonator Isham Yanis and well-known actress Amal Dabass.

The month-long festival opened in Haifa on Sunday night with a parade through the streets of the Hadar district. More than 1,000

people participated, including 30 dance troupes from throughout the country and one from Gaza.

The theme of the carnival was "Bride and Groom," with a couple who are soon to be married playing the appropriate parts.

A delegation from the Palestinian Authority took part in the official opening ceremony at Beit Hagefen, as did Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna, and leading Israeli Arab dignitaries.

One of the centerpieces of the month is the traditional Arabic book fair, housed in a huge tent in the grounds of Beit Hagefen.

Beit Hagefen director Dr. Mordechai Peri said there would

be theater, music, and folkdance performances throughout the month at the center and in Galilee and the Triangle.

"This year there will also be shows for the first time in three Beduin settlements in the Negev," he said. "Most of the events are designed primarily for children, although there will also be those for adults."

Peri noted that the European Union, the Education Ministry, and the Haifa Municipality are funding the event this year, in addition to contributions and sponsorship.

"Local councils are also helping to cover the local costs of staging the shows and performances in their towns and villages," he added.



Run Golani run

Participants join in the 18th annual Golani Brigade cross-country run from Mt. Hermon to Eilat. This year's jubilee run, which began Sunday and ends Friday, also includes paratroopers and sailors. They will be stopping along the way to meet with residents and schoolchildren, to encourage recruitment into combat units and underline the need for fitness. (Text: David Rudge; photo: IDF Spokesman)

Sharon denies intent to displace Beduin

By LIAT COLLINS

There is no intent to remove anyone from their lands if they hold them legally, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon told MKs at the Knesset Interior Committee meeting yesterday. During the meeting, Arab MKs focused on plans to transfer state land in the South to the Jewish Agency, which might displace Beduin settlements in the Negev not recognized by the state.

MK Taleb A-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) said that under the plan, farmland would be given only to Jews, and that current Beduin holdings are not sufficient for their further

development. He also said five Jewish towns were planned on Beduin land.

"This is a plan which discriminates against part of the population on the basis of their ethnicity and is therefore racist," said Hassan Abu Kwedar, spokesman for the unrecognized Beduin settlements in the Negev.

"It means removing state land which belongs to the whole population and giving it to a body which gives it to Jews only."

Sharon, in response, discussed the plans to establish permanent, recognized settlements for the Beduin and said they had been offered farmland and greenhouses. He said the settlement for the Tarabin-A-Sanaa clan, for example, would be

established in three months.

He also said the National Planning and Construction Council is in the process of approving four more Beduin settlements, all of which include agricultural lands.

"Israel in the year 2015 will be the world's most crowded nation, and it has the right to plan for a proper dispersion of its population," Sharon said. "But there is no basis for claims that there is a conspiracy against the Beduin."

A-Sanaa said 36 Beduin communities want recognition. He asked that no more demolitions be carried out and for the planning of new communities to be carried out in consultation with the residents.

UN, PA inaugurate \$2 million Japanese land project

By NINA GILBERT

The United Nations Development Program and the Palestinian Authority yesterday inaugurated a \$2 million project, funded by the Japanese government, to reclaim some 1,600 dunams of agricultural land in the Bethlehem area.

The project is aimed at creating jobs in agriculture and increasing agricultural production.

In Beit Kahel, near Hebron, yesterday, the UNDP signed a memorandum of understanding for the program with Palestinian Agriculture Minister Abdul Jawad Saleh.

The first phase of the project, the reclamation of some 900 dunams, was carried out in the Hebron area, also through a \$2m. Japanese donation, according to Timothy Rothermel, special representative of the UNDP.

After nine months, the formerly barren land has grape, fig and almond crops, he said. The project helps support 41 families, and created some 6,000 work days.

Since 1993, the Japanese have been the top donor to UNDP projects, providing some \$119m. in funding. The next biggest donor is Norway, with \$22m., followed by Italy at \$21m.

According to Rothermel, donations went up sharply in 1995 and 1996, but have now dropped due to the slowdown in the peace process.

In 1997, the UNDP spent some \$35m. in the territories.

Tomorrow, the UNDP is to launch three infrastructure projects in the Gaza Strip, with another \$2m. Japanese donation.

In Beit Lahia, \$500,000 is to be spent on a pumping station and sewage treatment plant. The same amount is to be spent in Beit Hanoun for street and sidewalk improvements, with \$1m. to be spent on water network improvements in Deir el-Balah.

Kahalani: Russian press is anti-police

By LIAT COLLINS

"The Russian-language press has turned me, the police, and the representatives of law and order into public enemies," Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani complained to the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee yesterday.

The immigrants "have a lack of faith in the police; they feel hostile toward them and cut off from them," committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said. She said the Zvi Ben-Ari Affair had worsened these feelings.

"This is a very dangerous situation which endangers the fight against crime and must light a warning light among the senior members of the Internal Security Ministry," she said.

She called for meetings between the immigrant groups and the police to overcome the gaps.

Kahalani said he does not think there is police violence against new immigrants, "but the headline 'Police beat immigrant' sells papers." He said complaints of violence are checked. He admitted there is a problem of a lack of communication with the immigrants.

He stressed that percentage wise, no more crimes are committed by immigrants than the rest of the population.

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Plus an option for an additional 20 Units over a period of 10 years, all in accordance and subject to the terms specified in the Tender Documents.

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- 2.2. An option for PRA, for the supply of an additional 20 Units, if exercised.
- 2.3. The Supply of Technical Documentation and Training;
- 2.4. The supply of Technical Support

All as specified in the Outline Specifications.

2.5. An option for PRA, for the maintenance of the TDMU's for a period of up to 10 years.

3. Pre-requisites for participation in the Tender:

- 3.1. The manufacturer must be certified for Quality Control system in accordance with the ISO 9001 (or equivalent) standard.
- 3.2. The manufacturer must have resources and working procedures allowing the performance of the Works in compliance with the U.I.C. or A.A.R. standards.
- 3.3. The manufacturer must have proven experience of at least 10 years in the manufacture of Railway vehicles.
- 3.4. The bidder must provide proof of experience of at least one year in the actual use of the proposed Tilting system for the TDMU.
- 3.5. The bidder has at least 50 Tilting systems as proposed, already supplied and/or in manufacturing process at present and/or in signed orders.
- 3.6. The bidder has on-going design and manufacturing divisions and facilities.
- 3.7. The bidder must attend a general meeting, as set forth in the Tender Documents.
- 3.8. To secure the validity of the bids, the bidder will submit a financial bank guarantee, to the order of the PRA, in the amount of 1 million USD, valid until January 15th, 1999.

Without derogating from the above-mentioned, the bidder may offer an improved or upgraded Tilting system, with less than one year of past experience, provided however, that such improvement or upgrading of the system does not change the basic design principles of the system.

4. The bidder is required to provide all documents and/or certificates required to proof its compliance with the Pre-requisites.

5. The winning bidder will be required to commit itself to an Industrial Commercial Cooperation undertaking and, if applicable, an Offset Procurement, on the terms contained in this Tender.

6. The PRA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to conduct negotiation on the final technical and the commercial terms, with those bidders that were found to be suitable.

7. The PRA does not undertake herein any commitment whatsoever, to execute the acquisition of the Works and/or to enter into a contract with any of the bidders.

8. The execution of this tender and any agreement arising therefrom is wholly subject to the PRA receiving a special budget approval from the Israeli Government.

Furthermore, the PRA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reduce the volume of the Works, even prior to signing the contract, for any reason whatsoever.

9. The PRA is not obligated to accept the lowest-priced Bid and/or any other Bid whatsoever.

10. Tender documents are available upon payment (not refundable) of NIS 3510 including VAT, (to the order of the PRA) at the address hereinafter.

For any further information, please contact Ms. Yael Tserruya Tel: 972-3-6937589, Fax: 972-3-6937419.

11. The deadline for submitting Bids is July 16th, 1998, at 15:00 hours.

12. A general meeting will be held at Tel-Aviv South Railway Station, on June 17th, 1998.

13. All the forms and proposals must be submitted in English.

14. The address for submitting Bids:

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Tel-Aviv Central Train Station

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TAU gets first synagogue for 'all Jews'

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Tel Aviv University today inaugurates the country's first university synagogue designed to be a place of worship for the three main streams of Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform.

"Israel has a great problem in relations between the secular and religious. After the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, this became clear, and I wanted to do something about it, and this is what I did," said Swiss donor Norbert Cymbalista.

The Cymbalista Synagogue and Jewish Heritage Center was the subject of controversy in its planning stages, due to its ecumenical intent. It was Cymbalista who insisted on the inclusion of a space for worship for non-Orthodox streams of Judaism, but, he stressed, "my decision had the full support of the university."

The building was designed by architect Mario Botta, whose previous creations have mainly been museums, office buildings, banks, art centers, shopping centers, and churches. The building, with its rose-colored Verona stone and two imposing round towers, sits prominently on the Tel Aviv campus, alongside Beit Hatfutsot, the Diaspora Museum.

"I wanted somebody who is neither Jewish nor Israeli to design this synagogue: someone who could bring in new, fresh ideas. I found an architect who had never been in a synagogue before," said Cymbalista, who resides in Switzerland.

The design is based on two iden-



Swiss President and Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti, flanked by donor Norbert Cymbalista (left) and architect Mario Botta, visits the Cymbalista Synagogue at Tel Aviv University on Sunday. (Reuters)

tical spaces facing one another, with sliding doors and a central hall in the middle. On one side is a fully fitted Orthodox synagogue with a permanent ark and eternal light, and pews facing one another. The other hall is an auditorium designed to serve both as a place of worship for Conservative and Reform Jews and as a space for lectures, meetings, and other activities: it, too, contains an ark, but one

that can be wheeled in or out of the room depending on its use.

Both rooms are constructed with "glazed" Tuscan stone, and have square foundations that rise into circular towers with generous skylights.

Prof. Aaron Dotan, the head of the center, said he hopes the building will become "a place for dialogue, a dialogue between man and God, and a dialogue between

people. We have too much violent dialogue in this country. We are aiming for another kind of dialogue, one in which religious and secular can sit and listen to each other."

The building also contains a Beit Midrash for the study of written and computerized religious texts, as well as a museum housing visiting exhibitions. Currently exhibited is an impressive collection of

rimonim, decorative crowns for Torah scrolls.

Dotan said the building would be open for students who want to use it at any time for prayer and meditation, but there are no plans to hire a university rabbi or hold formal services at set times. For now, he said, the synagogue would not be open for Shabbat services, as the campus is closed on that day.

NEWS

in brief

Court rejects Etzion's appeal against Habimah

The Jerusalem District Court yesterday rejected an appeal by right-wing activist Yehuda Etzion to prevent the Habimah Theater from portraying him in its current production, *Civil War*, which deals with Jewish extremism through the ages.

Among the figures portrayed is Etzion, who was a member of the Jewish underground. Etzion claimed the portrayal of him is distorted and that it violates his privacy. The theater, the play's director, and the actor portraying Etzion claimed that the portrayal is not distorted, since the actor's lines accurately reflect comments made by Etzion in interviews and articles.

They also argued that a public figure's political views are not his private property. Judge David Cheshin said that since the theater's defense was reasonable, free speech concerns gave him no choice but to reject the appeal. *Itim*

Tourism Ministry drops jubilee exhibition

The Tourism Ministry announced yesterday that it would not be participating in an exhibition marking Israel's 50th anniversary to be held at the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds. The decision came after the Treasury cut NIS 924,000 from ministry's budget last week. Ministry Director-General Shabtai Shai said that in view of the cut and the general lack of funds, the ministry is directing all its limited resources toward preparing for 2000, for which there is only a limited time left. The Environment Ministry plans only to provide garbage cans, while the Finance Ministry intends to erect a sign indicating that by not setting up a display, it is saving the taxpayers NIS 6 million. *Haim Shapiro*

IEC cancels 75th anniversary fete

Israel Electric Corp. board chairman Gad Ya'acobi and general manager Rafi Peled decided yesterday to cancel the firm's 75th anniversary celebration, which had been set for early next month at the Rutenberg Power Station in Ashkelon. The move was an expression of sorrow over the May 8 accident at the station in which nine foreign workers were killed. *Itim*

AIDS drugs now included in health basket

By JUDY SEGEL

From now on, all AIDS victims and HIV carriers who need the drug "cocktail" that slows the spread of the virus will get it free from their health fund. This was finally made possible yesterday, when Health Minister Yehoshua Matza signed a regulation that recognizes AIDS as a "serious disease."

The combination of drugs costs NIS 48,000 a year, which does not include the cost of hospitalization and outpatient treatments. There are some 1,700 known HIV carriers and about 90 patients with full-blown AIDS. According to the ministry, 70 percent of them

require the drug cocktail, which turns the disease almost into a chronic illness rather than one that kills soon after the immune system begins to collapse.

However, although the Finance Ministry agreed to include 14 vital drugs in the basket of health services (including several that make up the AIDS "cocktail") at the end of last year, others - for diabetes, cystic fibrosis, and other diseases are not included in the basket of health services.

Acting Health Ministry spokesman Yair Amikam would only say that inclusion of the other medications in the basket of health services is "under discussion."

Do Iraqi Jews offer clue to asthma gene?

By JUDY SEGEL

Sheba Hospital researchers have found genetic markers for an as-yet-unidentified gene or genes transmitting asthma.

The scientists found that Jews of Iraqi origin - who have married within their community over 2,500 years - are likely to be the clue to the asthma genes, which apparently go back to ancient times.

Dr. Dror Harats, of the respiratory institute at the Tel Hashomer hospital, will lecture on the subject at the Second International Congress for Research into Babylonian Jewry, scheduled for mid-June in Tel Aviv.

Harats said that asthma occurs in about 5 percent of the world population, not only in certain geographic regions with specific environmental conditions. This, he said, points to the genetic origin of the disease.

His unit's studies of some 300 Jews of Iraqi origin from 70 families around the country have shown genetic markers for the disease, which affects 30 percent of Iraqi Jews and presents itself with much more serious symptoms than in other groups.

Iraqi Jews have a tendency to be significantly more sensitive to their environment - expressed by the higher level of immunoglobulin in their blood.

While pollution tends to trigger the onset of asthma, one must have a genetic predisposition to the disease for it to appear, he explained. Iraqi Jews are a perfect population for research because they almost never intermarried with non-Jews in their areas.

The unit is getting help from Progenitor, a research institute in Palo Alto, California; the US National Institutes of Health have also supported the work.

The overall American population increased from 144 million in 1948 to 267 million in 1997. In the same 50 years, the Jewish population instead of increasing from 6 million to 11 million, decreased to 5 million. The Jews of America are assimilating rapidly and have become a vanishing minority. To survive as Jews they must return to Israel.

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Among the Bulgars

SOFIA - To the American-led West, Bulgaria remains a country with a lingering image problem. It was the ally of Hitler, then became the most enthusiastic lackey of the Soviet empire. Its agents once wielded sinister poisoned umbrellas in the streets, murdering a BBC journalist and a French dissident.

Israelis have a different image of Bulgaria, which while a German ally in World War II, was as successful in saving its Jewish population as was occupied Denmark. No one was deported - Jews were deemed Bulgarians, pure and simple, and no Bulgarians would be "resettled" against their will. A Nazi official failing to get the Bulgarian Jews rounded up wrote in exasperation to Berlin: "These Bulgarians simply have no understanding of the Jewish problem."

Under outbursts of Nazi pressure, the Bulgarian government enacted some feeble anti-Jewish legislation to prevent worse; a 1941 edict to round up Jews resulted in 6,000 (able-bodied men) being assigned to public-works projects. Exemptions abounded for academics, professionals, businessmen and doctors. Baptized Jews were exempt from all anti-Jewish measures, sparking a rash of fake baptisms with the collusion of the Orthodox church.

People power
Under strong pressure, the government grudgingly enacted a yellow-star law. The star was tiny, scarcely any Jews wore it and the sight of a yellow star drew such public solidarity in Sofia, so the story goes, that some Jews wore it out of pride. Others pinned pictures of King Boris III to the star.

German fury over Nazi edicts on Bulgarian Jewry being ignored for months, or being feebly enacted with endless exemptions, came to a head in 1942 when the government was ordered to deport all Jews from Sofia.

What the SS meant was for the Jews to be selected and concentrated. What the Bulgars did instead was to disperse them to the countryside, making Jews even safer as the "final solution" roared into murderous fury elsewhere. Even this clever move outraged the citizens of Sofia, who demonstrated in support of the Jews outside the royal palace.

Who saved the Jews? Simple: the king, the parliament, the Orthodox church and the citizens, acting in unison with the force of moral imperative and legal power. Familiar with the realities of German power, the king cunningly surrounded himself with a number of Nazi sympathizers to avoid

outright defiance. In Bulgarian-occupied Thrace and Macedonia, the Jews were not saved, because the Nazis did not recognize Bulgarian rights over these territories and thus they were kept outside the writ of King Boris and his parliament.

Il re ha fatto

The most serious defiance of the final-solution edicts came in March 1943. Boris told Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop bluntly he could not deport Jews because they were "essential for road building." It was an astounding demonstration that moral and legal force really could defy even criminal

Nazism when done cleverly - by turning Teutonic, anal pedantry and obsessive "correct procedure" into advantages. To stall for time, the Bulgarian interior minister first agreed to a mass deportation, then issued an order halting it and releasing Jews already in custody. The order came from the top, from Boris - and, interestingly, the play was hatched between him and the Catholic papal envoy in Istanbul, Monsignor Angelo Roncalli, who later became Pope John XXIII. Roncalli sent Boris a letter urging him to save the Bulgarian Jews, and Roncalli later noted on his file-copy of the letter that the king had replied "in a difficult situation" by verbal messenger.

"Il re ha fatto qualche cosa... pero, ripeto, ha fatto," says Roncalli's triumphant little scrawl: "The king has acted... I repeat, he has acted."

Back in Sofia, a furious head of the Jewish affairs office was screaming at Chief Rabbi Asher Hannan, whose flock was being freed from the deportation: "Thank your lucky stars that you seem to have powerful supporters behind you!" yelled Alexander Belev. "Personally I would lock you up with your entire congregation and send you this very evening to Germany."

Yellow brick road
How Bulgaria saved its Jews and then allowed them to return to Zion is well documented. But why? From where came this strip of sanity between Macedonia and the Black Sea that the Nazis contemptuously dismissed as backward "old Bulgaria"? It sits in a swathe of Balkan states where anti-Semitism and tribal hatreds have been the rule rather than the exception.

As mentioned above, Bulgaria generally has a poor image in the West. Yet it is obvious after just a few hours in the country that this is the home of some of the warmest, most good natured, humorous and civilized people in Europe.

See BULGARS, Page 7

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

All eyes turn to China

India's surprise nuclear tests last week have put Beijing in a diplomatic position similar to the critical one it enjoyed and exploited during the Cold War

By RONE TEMPEST

BEIJING - Suddenly, it's China's turn to feel needed. Thanks to India's surprise nuclear tests last week, the geopolitical axis has twisted overnight, putting China in a diplomatic position similar to the critical one it enjoyed and exploited during the Cold War.

As a result, President Clinton's upcoming visit to Beijing - which seemed destined to be a minefield of political sensitivities about Tibet and human rights - will take on a very different tone as the Americans will arrive with a list of pleas for China's help.

Human rights will likely move down on the agenda of this US-China summit, haunted by the specter of nuclear Armageddon. For starters, the US will ask China, which two years ago promised to halt nuclear tests and join the nonproliferation club, to refrain from restarting its testing program at the desert post of Lop Nor in Xinjiang region, despite what is viewed here as India's blatant provocation. Beijing has not signaled that it will resume the tests, but China and India fought a brief border war in 1962 and still have unresolved disputes.

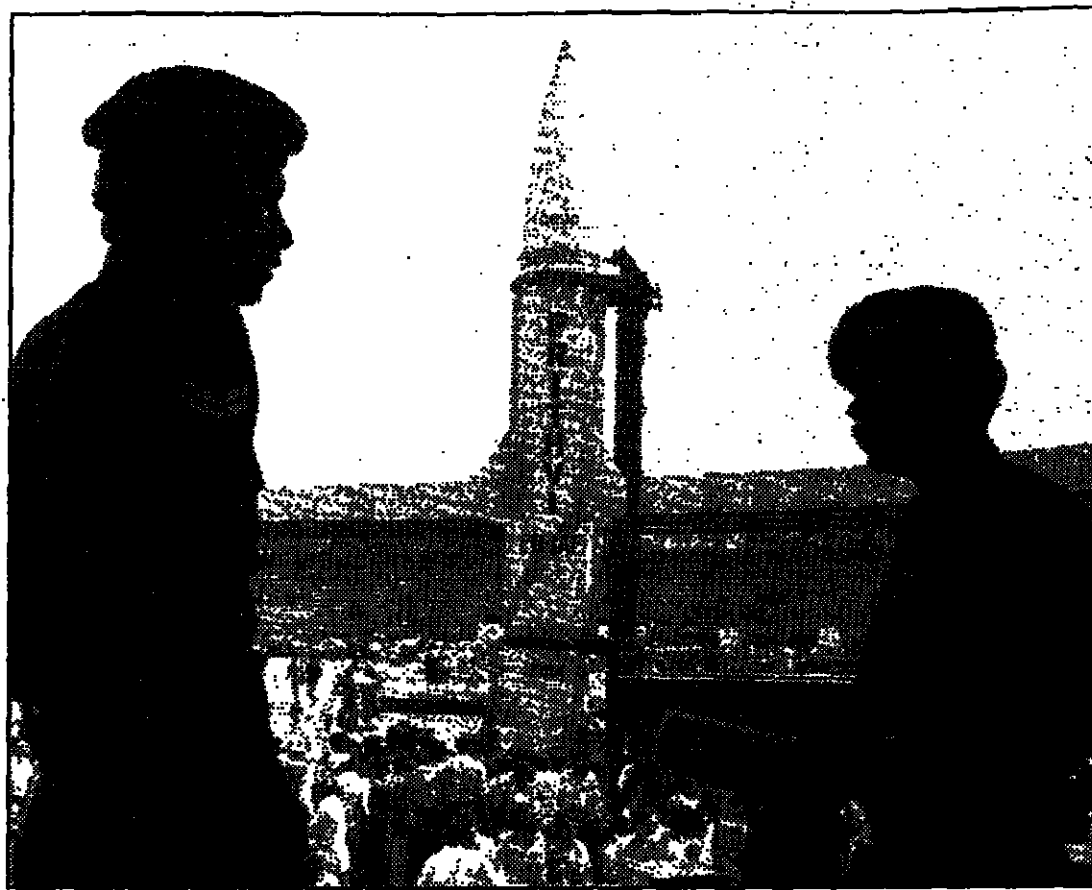
Second, the Americans will need China to control Pakistan, one of Beijing's oldest and dearest allies. Having possibly supplied Pakistan with the rudiments of a nuclear weapons program, China now needs to ask the Pakistani leadership not to use them.

Finally, there is the question of North Korea, a truly unstable and unpredictable country that has historically been a Beijing ally.

Not to be outdone by India, the North Korean regime, through its ambassador in Beijing, threatened last week to reopen the nuclear power facility it closed under international pressure in 1994 amid accusations that the plant was being used to produce fissionable nuclear materials.

Once again, Beijing will be asked to monitor and rein in the North Korean leadership to avoid a nuclear arms race in northern and southern Asia.

This process probably already has begun, with the Chinese joining the club of world nations privately begging Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif not to retaliate



Human rights will likely move down on the agenda of US-China dialogue, now haunted by the specter of nuclear Armageddon.

ate for the Indian testing. However, in the event that Pakistan explodes its own test bomb, China has an even more critical role to play as an intermediary to halt the nuclear escalation.

The outside world may have been shocked by the widespread joy in India - the land of Mohandas K. Gandhi and the philosophy of nonviolence - over the announcement of the nuclear tests. It is natural to be bewildered by people rejoicing over what conceivably could be the first step in their own annihilation.

But you can be sure the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP, was not surprised.

Although it heads India's coalition government, the BJP has a problem. Its main strength is in the populous Gangetic plain of northern India - where it is identified as a Hindu nationalist party, bulwark against the country's 200 million

Muslims and southern Indians who do not speak Hindi.

The BJP has never been the truly national party that the Congress Party, ruler of India for most of the years since independence in 1947, has always been, even in its current weakened state. Often forgotten, however, is that one of the main ways the Congress Party expanded its reach was by tapping the nationalist fervor roused by India's three wars with Pakistan.

This latest surge of national pride - similar to emotions engendered by a one-sided Indian victory over Pakistan on the cricket pitch - was precisely what BJP leader and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, always one of the earnest of Indian political personalities, was counting on. After these tests, in fact, look for the BJP to broaden its political base, particularly in southern India.

Of course, the downside of the

narrow gains by a single Indian political party is that the kind of fervent, irrational nationalism now in evidence in India exists in an even more virulent form in Pakistan. Pakistan is India without the tradition of "ahimsa" - the non-violence advocated by Gandhi. In Pakistan, the truck drivers adorn their vehicles with paintings of F-16 fighters sold to Pakistan by the US.

Moreover, Pakistan has lost - or at best tied - during its three conflicts with India. Thanks to India, the pressures on Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif are immense. If Pakistan is capable, as it has long claimed, it is very likely to test some type of nuclear device.

THIS IS where China comes into play. Now that the nightmare scenario has begun to develop - two potentially unstable Third World countries engage in a game of nuclear one-upmanship - the

most important goal is not to keep Pakistan from retaliating.

The real challenge will come after the Pakistan riposte. Can the two neighbors, whose capitals are only an hour away by air and who share rivers and culture going back thousands of years, avoid another level of escalation? China, as Pakistan's steady ally and India's most fearsome foe, will play a key role in these events. So far, Beijing has been restrained in its response to the Indian tests.

On Thursday, the official New China News Agency produced an unusual story stating that "China and the United States consider India's nuclear tests unacceptable for the international community." The story detailed a phone call that Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxun made to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to discuss the issue on Wednesday.

Coverage of the Indian tests has built slowly during the week in the Chinese media. On Thursday, China Central Television broadcast a report featuring interviews with experts in Washington and Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, as well as Beijing. Friday's *People's Daily* editorial harshly condemned the tests.

China can go in several directions. First, and most unlikely, it could face off against India and join Pakistan in some kind of defense pact. This is a possibility that India, despite its recent nuclear strutting, would like least.

Another possibility is that China will assume the role of regional godfather, attempting, as the region's one true nuclear power, to calm the situation and restore balance, albeit with two more nuclear nations added to the equation. This is the role that the US would probably like best.

If all this sounds vaguely familiar, it is. After it broke with the Soviet Union in the early 1960s, China played a similar role during the Cold War. China, although a Communist country, was the wedge that the Americans needed against the mutually perceived Soviet threat.

Now, in the wake of the Indian tests, the situation is being reenacted in a kind of mini-Cold War in which China is once again a key player in maintaining parity. (Los Angeles Times)

Bulgarian Turks want out

By ANATOLY VERBIN

KARDZHALI REGION, Bulgaria - The satellite dishes on the occupied houses in Rogozhe point skyward to receive programs from the land of some of the villagers' dreams - Turkey.

Many houses in the village are abandoned, their adjoining plots of land untended, bearing silent witness to a continuing exodus of ethnic Turks who still make up

nearly 80 percent of the population of Kardzhali region.

They head for Turkey in a steady flow that evokes memories of the 300,000 Bulgarian Turks who fled to Turkey in 1989, at the height of a campaign launched by the then-Communist dictator Todor Zhivkov to force them to adopt Slavic Bulgarian names.

This time their motive is to escape poverty and unemployment, rather than a Communist

despot. Those who stay, put their hopes of emigration on hold and make do with watching Turkish satellite television.

"If I have a chance, I will leave now, immediately, without my belongings," said Elias, a 32-year-old former driver, in a clear reflection of the general mood of local ethnic Turks.

From old to young, they all say they want to leave, giving the same reason: "no work, no money." In Communist days the

state had enough factories in the region for everyone to have a job.

Most of them have collapsed and the jobless rate is much higher than the average 14 percent across the country.

Rassim Mousa, mayor of Kardzhali and a member of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF), which represents ethnic Turks, says it is above 30% in the whole region and up to 90% in some villages.

A local power struggle is also contributing to tensions in Kardzhali, situated in the wild and beautiful Rhodope mountains which once served as the southern frontier between the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

Local politicians from the ruling center-right UDF party have formed an unlikely alliance with their opponents on the national level, the former Communists.

See TURKS, Page 7

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המנהל הכללי

End of isolation

LONDON (Reuters) - US attempts to isolate Iran through its dependence on energy looked in tatters yesterday following a deal lifting a threat of American sanctions linked to Iranian gas, analysts said.

Washington's accord with the European Union (EU) could lengthen a list of Western firms seeking business with the owner of the world's second largest gas reserves and source of the third largest oil exports.

"It is a significant development, although a lot could hinge on how broadly the decision is drafted," said John Mitchell, chairman of the energy program at London's Royal Institute of International Affairs.

President Bill Clinton confirmed the US had agreed with the EU to waive US sanctions on European, Russian and Malaysian firms involved in a disputed \$2 billion deal with Iran.

The US Iran Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA), which requires the US president to impose penalties on companies that invest more than \$20 million dollars a year in the oil and gas sector of those two countries, has been a major irritant in transatlantic relations.

Washington adopted the act in as a key plank in its policy of containment against Iran which it has accused of sponsoring international terrorism, seeking to undermine the Middle East peace process and seeking nuclear weapons. Iran denies those charges.

Since last year, the US State Department has been reviewing whether ILSA has been violated by Iran's deal with Total of France, Russia's Gazprom and Petromas of Malaysia.

But in the face of strong opposition, the US has wavered over imposing penalties and analysts have for months said Washington has sought a diplomatic way out of the impasse.

Ernst & Young's Richard Wilson said that if the agreement was confirmed it could heighten pressure from US oil and gas companies itching to get into the market.

"The issue will be how long the US companies can stand by and let the Europeans go in," he said.

"The last thing they will want is to be put at a competitive disadvantage in this major market. US pressure for a lifting of the sanctions will therefore grow."

Since June 1995, when Clinton imposed another set of oil and trade sanctions against Iran, US firms have been effectively frozen out of trade with the Islamic republic.

European, Japanese and other Asian companies have stepped in to sign up deals for which US firms would otherwise bid. The cost to American firms in terms of lost business opportunities and jobs has been high.

Further details of the waiver were expected to emerge following a US-EU summit in London involving Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and European Commission President Jacques Santer.

A lot still depended on how far the waiver extended, analysts cautioned.

Mitchell said: "If it just refers to the South Pars deal then it could be of not such short-term significance. But if it opens the door to future action in Iran by European companies then it is significant."

"The question is to what happens to the next people in the queue, and what have the Europeans undertaken to do in return?" Mitchell said.

"It marks the end of ILSA unless the Europeans agree to give up future investments, because the reality is that the United States would find it very difficult to impose sanctions again, having once agreed to a waiver."

TURKS

Continued from Page 6

They want to call a referendum on changing the boundaries of the local constituency so that the better-off town of Kardzhali is separated from surrounding poor villages, which are mostly populated by ethnic Turks.

The struggle has made local newspaper headlines for days and foreign diplomats in Sofia say it poses a problem for the generally improving relations between Bulgaria and Turkey.

Governing bodies of the UDF and former Communists in the capital, Sofia, say the power struggle over constituency boundaries is a purely local affair and that they are not involved.

Mousa says it is aimed against him personally and his MRF movement because the town is better-off and has a Bulgarian majority, while the villages are poor and mostly populated by ethnic Turks.

Some politicians in Sofia still talk about Bulgaria's 500 years of subjugation to Ottoman Turkish rule which ended last century with the help of the Russian army. Others warn of a possible flare-up of tension in Kardzhali.

But Bulgarians, who are mostly Eastern Orthodox Christians, and the Muslim Turks have lived together peacefully for centuries and no one fears an eruption of violence similar to that in nearby Yugoslavia's Kosovo province.

After the 1989 exodus from

Bulgaria, some of those who left returned and ethnic Turks still account for about 10% of the country's population. But a steady drift of ethnic Turks to Turkey has continued, although exact figures are hard to obtain.

They leave legally and illegally, hoping that both public opinion in Turkey and support from relatives already there will prevent the Turkish government from deporting them.

Mayor Mousa says the regional population has shrunk to 86,000 from 110,000 in 1989, "due to emigration which has unfortunately continued."

A man who collects electricity bills in the area around Rogozhche says there are only 28 families left in 15 villages.

Bulgaria is still reeling from a severe financial crisis which struck last year and the central government is short of funds.

"Our life is very hard so everyone is trying to run away," said Medjit Umer, one of several elderly men waiting patiently for their pensions in spring sunshine in the town of Dzhebel.

Teenage schoolgirls strolling slowly, like everyone else in town, say they have to wait to get out.

"My mother, my father, all my brothers and sisters have left. I want to go as well, but it is difficult," says one of them, declining to give her name. (Reuters)

BULGARS

Continued from Page 6

Bulgaria is a rural country, which was dominated by great powers for centuries, until just a few years ago. Bulgars still casually refer to Ottoman rule as "the slavery." So how come it is not brutalized, bitter and seething with peasant hatreds?

The marks of sad history are everywhere.

In the central square of Sofia, the shabby and neglected former royal palace peers across a wide yellow brick road toward a shabby and neglected socialist-realist mausoleum. A gray politburo in brown Bulgarian suits once lined up there to take the annual Mayday military salute.

Now, on a sunny Sunday afternoon, the strollers among the peeling paint and crumbling walls of faded elegance and ugliness still seem to be blinking in the light of freedom after emerging from some dark dungeon. Certainly modernity is coming at last: cafes are booming, kids are rollerblading.

But Bulgaria has been slower to wake up to our brave, new free-market world than Poland, Hungary or the Czech Republic. As we shall see, Bulgarians may yet be all the better for their tardiness.

The first of three dispatches from Bulgaria

US waives sanction threat on EU firms dealing with Iran

By RANDALL MIKKELSEN

LONDON (Reuters) - The US yesterday reached agreement with the European Union to waive US sanctions on European, Russian, and Malaysian firms over a disputed \$2 billion gas deal with Iran, a US source said.

The accord, announced formally by President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair after a US-EU summit, should remove a major irritant in transatlantic relations.

"We feel we have enough cooperation with the EU, Russia, and Malaysia to invoke national interest waivers to the sanctions," the source said.

The companies involved are Total SA of France, Russia's Gazprom, and Petromas Dagang Bhd of Indonesia, which signed a contract last year to develop Iran's South Pars gas field.

Washington accuses Iran of sponsoring international terrorism, trying to sabotage the Middle East peace process, and seeking weapons of mass destruction.

But its attitude has softened somewhat since President Mohammad Khatami took office in Teheran and called for a "crack in the wall of mistrust" between the two peoples.

The source was speaking as Clinton met European Commission President Jacques Santer and Blair, whose country holds the EU's six-month rotating presidency, for the annual US-EU summit in London.

The Iran Libya Sanctions Act, passed by a Republican-dominated Congress in 1996, requires the president to impose penalties on firms that invest more than \$20 million a year in the oil and gas sector of those two countries.

"The US has reached an agreement with the countries involved for cooperation on the underlying purposes of the law," the source said.

He said the EU, Russia, and Malaysia had agreed to cooperate in preventing terrorism and stopping Iran from acquiring weapons



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (right) and US President Bill Clinton field questions at the Foreign Office in London yesterday, after announcing a breakthrough on contentious trade disputes between Washington and the EU. (AP)

of mass destruction.

EU and US negotiators said a deal was also in sight to end a long-running row over US sanctions on trade with Cuba.

In return, the EU would commit itself to deter new investment in illegally expropriated properties worldwide.

The EU's external trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, said giant strides had been made in talks over the weekend on the two-year transatlantic dispute.

"We haven't got it in the bag. We've made huge progress. We have been negotiating intensively over the weekend and I very much hope we can now bring it to a conclusion," he told BBC radio.

Separately, a US official said Clinton would call for the launching of a new round of world trade

talks at a speech in Geneva last night.

The EU has been pressing for a full new trade round, like the eight rounds under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which have been given much credit for five decades of global growth since 1948, to start from 2000.

Washington had previously been unhappy with this idea, preferring instead to focus on specific areas, especially agriculture.

EU ambassadors met for almost

four hours in Brussels on Sunday night to review a text of a proposed settlement over the Helms-Burton law on Cuba and the Iran Libya Sanctions Act, also known as the D'Amato law.

Helms-Burton allows penalties on foreign firms that invest in Cuban property seized after the 1959 communist revolution.

The EU says "extraterritorial" laws that seek to bind other countries break international law.

The main difference in talks with

the Americans has been over how broad the waivers protecting European firms and business executives should be.

US Commerce Secretary Bill Daley held out hopes for securing a deal after intense negotiations.

"We hope a deal is done, but the purpose of all these discussions is to come to some better understanding of what disciplines can be applied against countries that in our opinion are sources of terrorism," Daley told the BBC.

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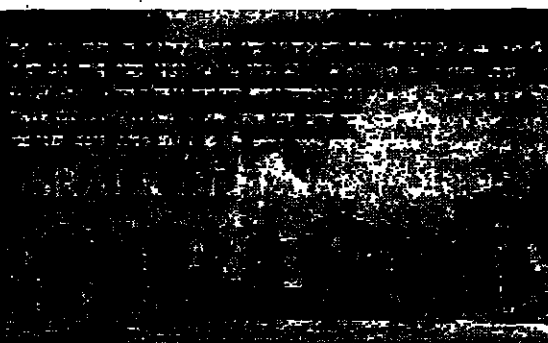
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- 3.3. The manufacturer must have proven experience of at least 10 years in the manufacture of Railway vehicles.
- 3.4. The bidder has on-going design and manufacturing divisions and facilities.
- 3.5. The bidder must attend a general meeting, as set forth in the Tender Documents.
- 3.6. To secure the validity of the bids, the bidder will submit a financial bank guarantee, to the order of the PRA, in the amount of 1 million USD valid until January 15th, 1999.

4. The bidder is required to provide all documents and/or certificates required to proof its compliance with the Pre-requisites.

5. The winning bidder will be required to commit itself to an Industrial Commercial Cooperation undertaking and, if applicable, an Offset Procurement, on the terms contained in this tender.

6. The PRA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to conduct negotiation on the final technical and the commercial terms, with those bidders that were found to be suitable.

7. The PRA does not undertake herein any commitment whatsoever, to execute the acquisition of the Works and/or to enter into a contract with any of the bidders.

8. The execution of this tender and any agreement arising therefrom is wholly subject to the PRA receiving a special budget approval from the Israeli Government.

Furthermore, the PRA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reduce the volume of the Works, even prior to signing the contract, for any reason whatsoever.

9. The PRA is not obligated to accept the lowest-priced Bid and/or any other Bid whatsoever.

10. Tender documents are available upon payment (not refundable) of NIS 3510 including VAT, (to the order of the PRA) at the address hereinafter. For any further information, please contact Ms. Yael Tseruya Tel: 972-3-6837589, Fax: 972-3-6937419.

11. The deadline for submitting Bids is July 15th, 1998, at 15:00 hours.

12. A general meeting will be held at Tel-Aviv South Railway Station, on June 16th, 1998.

13. All the forms and proposals must be submitted in English.

14. The address for submitting Bids:

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The sex-change Mecca of the Colorado Rockies

By SUE ANNE PRESSLEY

TRINIDAD, Colorado — It was early morning, before surgery, and Stanley Biber was reading the sports pages, as calm as if he were about to tackle a routine hip replacement. His patient waited drowsily on a stretcher, wondering one final time if he had made the right decision.

For him, the next few hours would be profoundly life-altering. He was about to become the woman of his dreams, a legal "F." In the transgender lexicon, he had taken "the road to Trinidad" — and to Biber.

Biber, 75, is one of the world's leading gender-reassignment surgeons, and his renown over the past 30 years has given this former mining town of 8,500 the unlikely nickname of "Mecca." Much to the quiet dismay of its residents, it is known as the "sex-change capital of the world."

This is where men — and increasingly women — who feel they were trapped in the wrong anatomy come, as they see it, to correct their bodies. For \$10,000 and up, they give up their pasts and their secrets to Biber's matter-of-fact manner and surgical

skills. He says he can do in 2 1/2 hours what it takes the handful of other surgeons in this specialty 7 or 8 hours to accomplish. And his work is so realistic, he boasts, that it has fooled at least one gynecologist, husband of a former patient.

Biber's select group of out-towners — he also is general surgeon to the town — contributes to the local economy and helps keep private, 82-bed Mt. San Rafael Hospital afloat. Before surgery, patients stroll down the Old West-style streets of Trinidad, 200 miles south of Denver, and climb the steep hill behind the hospital to pray at the blue-and-white shrine to the Virgin Mary. In the hospital, they occupy rooms at the far end of the hall, where the staff treats them sympathetically. After 3,500 of these operations by Biber in the past three decades, no one bats an eye.

"To me, it's just plastic surgery. It's something they want done," said Tina Lankford, an operating room nurse. "These people have put a lot of thought into this. Insurance doesn't cover it; they had to work two or three jobs to afford it. It is not something that is a whim."

A VISIT to Trinidad, to Biber's office and to his operating room raises questions about what constitutes a man, when a woman is a woman, whether it is possible to be something in-between or encompassing both.

Biber, an Army surgeon in the Korean War, was later assigned to nearby Fort Carson, and decided he wanted to be a rancher as well as a doctor. His entry into transgender surgery came about in 1969 when a friend confided a secret.

"She was sitting right there at the desk, a female social worker. She brought all her kids in to me. In those days, I was doing all the haircuts for Social Services. She said, 'Can you do my surgery?'"

In those days, I had no humility. You know how young surgeons are. "I can do anything," Biber consulted with a doctor at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore, who had done the procedure, and proceeded for the first time to transform a man into a woman. The result, he said, was "horrible-looking but functional. It's just that the cosmetic technique was so bad."

Refinements quickly followed. "Once I got started, the grapevine

was so great. There was nobody else to send them to."

At first, Biber was cautious, scheduling the unusual surgeries for after hours, with set crews. While not denying that he was doing, he did not advertise it. Soon, he met with area ministers and other residents and explained his new specialty. After that, the questions, if not the raised eyebrows, ceased.

Residents regard strangers politely, asking at most veiled questions such as, "Are you tourists in town?" Trinidad's medical claim to fame, however, is pointedly not advertised by officials or merchants.

Now so many patients have journeyed to Trinidad that they have formed a loose information network, calling themselves, "Biber's girls."

"Originally, I probably accepted it as a surgical challenge," he said. "But after being exposed to these people for a considerable period of time, you develop a lot of empathy for them because they have a horrible life they have to lead."

"And once you begin to understand what they go through, and

how they're hiding all the time, how they can't find a good job, how they can't pass a physical examination, how they're not accepted anywhere if they come out, you start thinking, 'I could offer them a service,' and it was a satisfactory service, and it seemed to me I was turning out good products and making good citizens out of them."

THE FIRST gender-reassignment patient to gain infamy was Christine Jorgensen in 1952. "EX-GI Becomes Blonde Bombshell!" screamed the headlines after her surgery in Denmark. But attempts at the procedure had been made as early as the 1800s. The International Foundation for Gender Education estimates one in 100,000 people experience some feelings of gender confusion and cite evidence throughout history, including Joan of Arc.

There is no medical explanation for this condition. But Biber believes research will prove the size of the hypothalamus, the part of the brain that regulates many body functions, is involved.

Although more surgeons are doing gender-reassignment, the patriarch is Biber, who still per-

forms one or two procedures a week.

That is why a 44-year-old Baltimore man recently came to Trinidad, seeking to solve a life-long problem "that was not going to go away."

"I've been racking my brains, why did I have to do this. I didn't have to do this, but I had to," said the man, who refused to be identified. "It was just that point in my life where I had to find out. There are choices, I guess. You can either keep this all pent up inside and go crazy, or do this and go into bankruptcy."

The Baltimore man researched the issue for years, deciding finally on Biber. A self-described "mighty big woman," nearly 6 feet tall, he came across more as an earth mother in denim overalls and work boots than a glamorous type.

But he also fit Biber's criteria for acceptance as a patient. He had always felt himself a misplaced female; his favorite secret childhood game was dressing up in his grandmother's clothes. He had sought therapy for his problems, and about 10 years ago, had begun the first steps in becoming a woman — hormone treatments, electrolysis. Since 1993, he had been living

as a female.

Like many transgender people, he did not consider himself gay, although he had had gay experiences in which he pretended to himself that he was a woman. He was even married for five years to a heterosexual woman, to whom he confided his deepest fears on the third date. She said she thought she understood, but the marriage broke up, in part over the gender issue.

"I was a believable male," he said, "and when I first went out in drag, it was like being around my straight friends who never failed to make a comment, 'You look like a linebacker in a dress.'"

On his last morning as a male, the man woke up early, very calm, and wrote in his journal that he had "had a good life. I was a pretty good boy/man..."

Biber's operating room was relaxed but efficient later that morning. Viewing the procedure was not for the faint-hearted, however.

As Biber sewed, the Baltimore man slept on, snoring slightly, as his body and life were changing forever. In a world where pronouns often are unreliable, "he" was quickly becoming a "she." (Washington Post)

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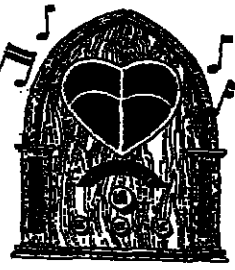
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Mondial's world music

In Tune



By David Brinn

ALLEZ! OLA! OLE

The Music of the World Cup

MEZZANINE

Massive Attack

(Helicon)

CRACKING UP

The Jesus and Mary Chain

(NMC)

PURE FROSTING

The Presidents of the United States

(Real Arts)

YOU don't have to know Betar Jerusalem from Hapoel Beit She'an to enjoy *Allez! Ola! Ole!*, subtitled *The Music of the World Cup*, an international collection of 20 songs in honor of this year's Mondial.

Don't ask me the difference between World Cup's official anthem "Do You Mind If I Play?" by Youssou N'Dour and Axelle Red, and a World Cup official song, Ricky Martin's "The Cup of Life," but both are included here. Standout tracks by the Gipsy Kings, Chumbawamba, and Jamaica United's "Rise Up" to mark the first appearance of The Reggae Boyz in the finals prop up the singalongs by the other countries.

Allez! Ola! Ole! will get soccer fans in the beer mug swinging mood long after the last World Cup goal is scored.

BLAME it on Massive Attack. Its first two albums provided the trip-hop blueprints for much of the most daring music being made today, and its influence on such bigger names as Tricky and Portishead is immeasurable.

Proving that techno is not the only way to go, the trio's hypnotic, reverberant sound pioneered a refreshing yet turbulent take that expands so many styles, it's impossible to categorize.

On *Mezzanine*, its first album in four years, Massive Attack is no

longer the original upstart it was, but the band is certainly not resting on its laurels. With emphasis on guitars more than on previous efforts, and guest vocals by the Cocteau Twins' ethereal Elisabeth Fraser, *Mezzanine* is the band's most accessible disc.

But "accessible" is a relative word for Massive Attack. Textured, spacy and languid, the band is never in a hurry to get anywhere. The members consider the songs like a blank canvas upon which they stungily splash sounds and effects, ranging from loping bass lines to samples to soul hooks.

This is "headphones" music personified. It may not be as super-sonic as *Whole Lotta Love*, but *Mezzanine* will take you places.

THE Jesus and Mary Chain present a preview of its forthcoming disc with a four-song single that points to the veteran Scottish band's strengths and weaknesses.

"Cracking Up" is a monotonous dirge that emphasizes the negative aspects of leaders William and Jim Reid's Velvet Underground fixation. But the middle songs take a less heavy-handed approach and effectively mesh acoustic and electric guitars with William Reid's bass voice. The finale returns to the pseudo-heavy sound that has plagued the band since its inception in 1984.

Fans should be pleased with the band's first new music in four years, but it's unlikely to win them a wider audience.

THE swan song of the California surf-punk band The Presidents of the United States is more of the same warped three-minute buzz saw statements it was semi-famous for.

Consisting of new tracks, outtakes and live versions of band favorites, *Pure Frosting* accurately represents the band's range, best exemplified by the title to the opening cut, "Love Delicatessen." Nothing is sacred to the beach dudes, although they prove their heart is in the right place by faithfully covering The Buggles' "Video Killed the Radio Star" and Ian Hunter's "Cleveland Rocks."

Over the course of an entire disc, the band doesn't possess the versatility or imagination to sustain its comedy-rock vision, and they end up sounding like wise guys. They're reminiscent of the class clown in high school who was once hilarious but a few years down the line is still living in the past.

Beware of solo albums coming up.



He's got the whole world in his hands. The World Cup is held aloft by soccer star Romario after Brazil's 1994 victory. (AP)

Webb leads JSO nowhere fast

Concert Roundup

Jonathan Webb, conducting the all-Mozart program of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 6, though it did not become quite clear where to. The *Don Giovanni* and *Nozze di Figaro* overtures sounded breathless and inarticulate. The *Divertimento* K. 136 was indiffer-

ent, lacking in Viennese elegance and Mozartian charm. In the *Divertimento* K. 137 and the *Paris Symphony*, did not get off the ground.

JSO ALL-MOZART PROGRAM

Jerusalem Theater

May 6

ent, lacking in Viennese elegance and Mozartian charm. In the *Divertimento* K. 137 and the *Paris Symphony*, did not get off the ground.

Characters as fundamentally different from each other as Don Giovanni, Leporello, Figaro and the Count all sounded alike in baritone Paul Whelan's interpretation. In fact, they all sounded like Boris Gudonov - quite a feat for a New Zealander.

A coarse bellowing of phrases substituted for Don Giovanni's sparkle in his wine song, for Leporello's wit and for Figaro's humor.

Ury Eppstein

IN THE Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 6, violinist Yuri Bashmet's velvety, deeply resonant, caressing, almost cello-like sound was a pure delight in Telemann's and Hoffmeister's viola concertos. His selection of these rarely per-

IPO

Works by Telemann, Bach,

Hoffmeister, Schubert

Jerusalem International Convention

Center

May 10

formed, listener-friendly works was a welcome contribution to the instrument's meager repertoire. Together with violinist Yuri Gandelman, their performance of the concertino parts in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 created an enjoyable chamber music-like atmosphere.

But in Bashmet's rendition of Schubert's Symphony No. 4, it seemed as if the orchestra were

playing by itself, without paying much attention to the conductor's gestures.

Ury Eppstein

VIOLINIST Julian Rachlin's (24) first appearance with the JSO, in its Subscription Concert No. 7, was an encounter with an extraordinary talent. Rachlin's rendition of Brahms's violin concerto was full of abandon, vigorous temperament and intense emotional expression. He savored the melod-

JSO

Works by Brahms

and Tchaikovsky

Jerusalem Theater

May 13

ic phrases to their utmost content and displayed an amazing degree of maturity. It was a thoroughly exciting performance.

Conductor Yuri Ahronovich celebrated his 65th birthday by presenting Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, brimming with vitality and spontaneity, as if it were a first performance of the almost too well-known work. Ury Eppstein

THE Chamber Orchestra of the Municipality of Rosario, second largest city in Argentina, is on tour in Israel, presenting concerts in Ashkelon, Haifa, Ariel, and Tel Aviv.

The 17-member string ensemble played Grieg's *Holberg Suite*, Haydn's *Piano Concerto in D* (with Herut Israeli), and Latin

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

(Rosario, Argentina)

Conductor: Fernando Ciraolo

Beit Yad Lehaninim, Ashkelon

May 14

American suites by Aldo Gily and William Grant Still.

The quality of playing was regional - pleasant, accurate and solid under director Fernando Ciraolo.

An excellent new work for cello and strings, *In Memoriam*, to the victims of the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires, 1994, by Daniel Galay was premiered. The Israeli work is moving, filled with fearful trills, angry recitatives and mournful lyricism, expressed effectively by cellist Rachel Galay the composer's daughter.

Tangos in cabaret style, led by lead violinist Pedro Marcia Garcia, brought the audience to their feet.

Max Stern

Live-action heroine

By HELEN KAYE

Tracy Amrani's grandmother showed her the *Jerusalem Post* news item calling to the audacious to audition for *Fort Broyard*, the new Tel-Ad TV adventure game show series, which will be broadcast here for 11 weeks starting in July.

"Who's mad enough to do a thing like that?" she asked.

"I am," said Amrani, and she'll be doing it the first week of June. She's the only Anglo among 10 five-person teams who'll take turns traveling to Fort Broyard, a 19th-century fortress off the west coast of France.

There they'll compete for a treasure of "gold coins" and other prizes in a contest that involves derring-do, guts, teamwork, smarts and a couple of very fearsome tigers padding back and forth. They are the guardians of the treasure chamber, which is the team's object of desire.

Amrani is 27, about 1.79 tall, solid and sinuous at the same time, has an infectious smile and a smooth cap of auburn hair.

Born in Johannesburg, she immigrated with her parents in 1979 to Kibbutz Geshet Haziv, where they still reside. Amrani and her husband, Yossi, a Hebrew University student, live in Tel Aviv.

"I've done sports for as long as I can remember," she says "and I was always the best in my class. I've done karate, gymnastics, I swam with the Nahariya junior swim team. I'm a qualified life guard and a certified sailor."

When?

These days she does aerobics and works out so that diving into and then crawling through a row of tires, swarming up a sheer wall "like Spiderman," jumping from rock to slippery rock and finally walking (with a safety harness) on a slack wire from eucalyptus tree to eucalyptus tree branch about 10 meters up, presented few problems at the final auditions at a venue near Tiberias.

Then "they just pushed us off the tree to get down. We were harnessed but it was still scary. Nothing really fazes me, though. The only thing I won't do is bungee jumping. I want to have a baby next year and they say that bungee displaces the uterus."



Tracy Amrani is out to earn her stripes as she confronts ferocious tigers on Tel Ad's new adventure game show 'Fort Broyard.'

She's going to Fort Broyard because "it's a challenge. All I've heard about the show - the rats, cockroaches, snakes, the creepy things they do to try to scare you - doesn't bother me. I was in charge of the reptile room at Geshet Haziv. We fed mice and rats to the snakes and gave insects to the tarantulas."

They were lovely, so pretty. But what I've heard about the show is all hearsay, so I don't really know what I'm going into. I'm not scared. 'Curious' is a better word."

She says that her husband rooted for her from the start "and had more confidence in me than I had in myself."

Amrani says that whatever she does, be it marriage, sports, studies, fun, she does one hundred percent.

"This June she'll graduate with a bachelor's degree in behavioral sciences and communications, so 'Fort Broyard' will be a wonderful

graduation fling. It marks a change in direction because the next stage is children and a career."

Batsheva's back on its toes

DANCE REVIEW

By ORA SHAFMAN

Repertoire evenings at Batsheva tend to be rather low key, in contrast to most of artistic director Ohad Naharin's own work.

The evening began with a solo by Naharin who, following the recent *Jubilee Bells* fiasco, found himself at the core of the much publicized secular - religious battle for creative freedom.

Liat Wajsbrot performed, in slow motion, a somber version using the same movement of the energetic, now controversial dance piece from *Anaphase* which had sparked the scandal, representing the 120 dancers that refused to take part in the Independence Day event. The sound track includes some of the messages received on Naharin's answering machine at the peak of the dispute, which ties the work to specific events rather than keep it as a more abstract innuendo.

After that intense start, Finnish choreographer Tero Saarinen's *UNDO* was a letdown. His previous work for the company - *Flock* - and other works by this ingenious dancer had a unique quality, as he managed to fuse high intensity with Nordic detachment.

A few scenes, such as the forming and disintegrating of an entwined group of dancers and the duet had Tero's unique touch.

He relied too heavily on the dancers' readily available vocabulary, however, and let them slip into some overused gestures.

Hamas '98 by Kovac must have been a treat for the Batsheva dancers. This highly talented artist from Slovenia created a passionate, free-flowing dance that is both challenging and original, as well as warm and modest while still maintaining a strong contemporary look. Kovac is endowed with talent and good intuition, which he obviously trusts. The result was a pleasure to watch.

TV Ratings: May 10 - May 16

Program	Day	Channel	Rating
1. Focus - Rafi Ginat	Tuesday	2	28.6%
2. Dan Shilon Live	Tuesday	2	28.3%
3. Candid Camera	Tuesday	2	26.3%
4. Shemesh	Thursday	2	23.9%
4. Miss Universe	Saturday	2	23.9%
6. Only in Israel	Thursday	2	23.4%
7. First in Entertainment	Monday	2	23.2%
8. Popolitica	Monday	1	22.8%
9. Fact	Sunday	2	22.8%
10. News	Sun-Thurs	2	22.6%

Courtesy of Israel Ratings Board and Tel Gal/AGB Ltd.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	10	DANA INTERNATIONAL	DIVA - BEST OF
#2	1	20	VIA	50TH INDEPENDENCE...
#3	10	9	EMMA SHAPPLIN	CARMINE MEO
#4	9	2	ETHNIKS	BRUCHIM HABAIM LEISRAEL
#5	4	6	VIA	NOW 39
#6	18	13	CELINE DION	LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE
#7	8	4	MASSIVE ATTACK	MEZZANINE
#8	12	20	HAIM MOSHE	HAT'MUNUT SHE...
#9	7	8	RITA	TAHANOT B'ZMAN
#10	6	8	BEN ARTZI	HAIM MESHELL ATZMI
#11	5	11	MARCONNA	RAY OF LIGHT
#12	new	new	GABRIEL	VERSION 2.0
#13	3	6	ACHINOAM NINI	& THE IPO
#14	14	11	MICHA SHEETTRIT	MASMERIVE...
#15	15	10	Q.S.T	TITANIC

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

ENGLISH CONCERT ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR

DIRECTOR: TREVOR PINNOCK

HANDEL: MESSIAH

ISRAEL FESTIVAL, JERUSALEM

SOLOISTS:
Deborah York, Soprano
Catherine Wynne Rogers, Mezzo
Benjamin Britten Field, Tenor
Matthew Harries, Bass

Central box office for sales and distribution: Bilnot 8 Shamai St. Jerusalem Tel. 02-6240896, 6234061

Jerusalem Bilnot: 02-6240896 Klaim: 02-6256869 Jerusalem Theatre: 02-5610011 Tel Aviv Hadram: 03-5279449 Kestel: 03-6050605
Le'an 03-5270545 Recco: 03-5276677 Ramat Hasharon: 03-5400351 Petach Tikva: 03-9301195

The festival on internet: <http://www.festival.co.il/>

Second ticket free for 2,500 to 6,500 points. Details at ticket agencies.

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High tech to the rescue

The banner headlines proclaiming a deepening of the economic slowdown miss a sharp beacon shining through the tunnel of excessive gloom: the headlight on the bullet train of high-technology that is about to shoot forth. Though it cannot by itself pull the economy out of the mud, it can show the way the rest of the economy should be headed.

The first quarter growth rate released Sunday by the Central Bureau of Statistics — just 1.2 percent on an annual basis — represents a 1.3 percent contraction of the economy when adjusted for population growth.

This figure also continues the precipitous drop in the annual growth rate from the 5.5 percent in the first quarter of 1996. At the same time, Israel's economy-within-an-economy, the high-tech sector, raised \$156 million in venture capital investments in the first quarter. This flow of private foreign investment represents a 130 percent increase over the same period last year. In addition, Israeli technology venture capital funds raised \$578 million in 1997, an increase of 43 percent over the previous year's total.

Whether measured by growth, investments, or employment, the high-tech sector is a mirror image of the rest of the economy. While the development towns and the Arab-Israeli sector struggle with double-digit unemployment, high-tech companies are competing fiercely in the face of a shortfall of 30,000 to 50,000 engineers and programmers. The economy as a whole is dominated by an intricate morass of giant government-owned or influenced conglomerates, while the tiny high-tech companies run circles around their feet, like the Lilliputians around Gulliver.

The high-tech sector represents the potential of the Israeli economy, were it to be freed from the heavy hand of government, and open to competition. According to the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, in 1996 the government spent a staggering 56 percent of GDP, compared to 42 percent in Britain, 36 percent in Japan, 33 percent in the United States, and 21 percent in South Korea (all figures include debt repayments). The Netanyahu government has so far yanked the hand brake and stopped this growth, but has not reduced the absolute size of government, nor is it clear the braking action is permanent.

Israel still necessarily has higher than normal

defense expenditures, which explain some of this gap; but it is clear the economy will not experience sustained growth until the size of government is brought down at least to current Western standards. The fact, however, that South Korea — which just saw its currency collapse and is going through a difficult economic crisis — is on the low end of government expenditures, shows that cutting the budget is not enough.

South Korea's crisis was caused by the collapse of bad loans extended by large banks that were too close to the government and to the major conglomerates they served. Israel has already weathered its own bank-shares crisis, leading the system to be placed on sounder ground, but we still suffer from an overconcentration in banking and other sectors that is stifling productivity and growth.

The problem now is that things are bad enough to scare the government into inertia, without being desperate enough to compel action. Unemployment jumped from 6 percent just over two years ago to 8 percent last fall, and seems to have stabilized at that level since then. The standard of living is inching down, but salaries are holding about even, and there have been few massive layoffs or major plant closings. The more-or-less cosmetic billion-shekel infrastructure package recently approved by the cabinet was a measure of the lack of real concern or urgency regarding the economic situation. While the government is right not to be stampeded into attempting to prime the economy with inflationary government spending, it is also not taking the opportunity to make necessary structural changes.

It would be a shame if the common sense measures advocated by Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel — shifting priorities toward infrastructure, cutting spending, and cutting taxes — were to be put aside until the economy limps along for a while longer. Given Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reluctance to ruffle feathers within his narrow coalition, it is a real question whether this government is capable of major economic reform under any conditions. Netanyahu has boasted that he is a "coalition of one" when it comes to pushing forward the peace process. That statement has yet to be proven in the diplomatic sphere, and yet to be even claimed regarding the economy.

OLEG 98

Bibi in a bubble

What we have especially been trying to do in recent weeks is to issue a wake-up call. The leaders of the region have reached a crossroads. Act before it is too late.

"Decide before the peace process collapses. And understand that in a neighborhood [such as the Middle East], there is no security from hard choices, and no lasting security without hard choices."

"The parties must understand, as well, that there is urgency to this task. For time is no longer an ally of this process; it has become an adversary."

These words were spoken by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, on May 12, just before her meetings with Israel's prime minister. The words are simple, direct, penetrating and precise, an expression of friendliness towards Israel with a promise to maintain the alliance with Israel, even if the peace process breaks down.

They also include more than a small element of reproach — principally that the US was asked to contribute suggestions, it offered ideas which are much closer to Israel's position than that of the Palestinians, and despite all this, it was the Palestinians who accepted the American ideas while Israel rejected them.

Madeline Albright's speech is a sad representation of someone who in previous years had proudly stated that "no problem was too big to solve" and compared with the days in which "every issue is argued about."

She has difficulty understand-

YOSSI BEILIN

ing Israel's motives, and believes that the US has done everything it could to propose a reasonable solution which would lead to the beginning of negotiations on the permanent settlement and conclude them on schedule, before May 4, 1999. From now on, this is in Israel's hands.

Netanyahu is so preoccupied with surviving that he has difficulty understanding the damage he has caused

NETANYAHU can charm AIPAC, which has become the mouthpiece of the extreme Right among American Jewry. He can be photographed with Jerry Falwell and America's right-wing Christians, and even bring 81 senators to sign a letter of support for Israel, which most of them do not wholeheartedly agree with. But none of this will bring either peace or security to the Middle East.

The responsibility he bears is enormous. He has worked himself into a corner in which no previous Israeli prime minister has ever been trapped.

The US contends that the PLO

has fulfilled its expectations whereas Israel has rejected its proposals. When Menachem Begin rejected the Reagan Plan in 1982, it was also rejected by King Hussein. This time Netanyahu is alone in his refusal.

The recent violent events in the territories have once again proven, to anyone who needs such proof, that Netanyahu has failed miserably in his efforts to lower Palestinian expectations, but he has succeeded in intensifying their feelings of frustration. The violent repercussions of this combination may be even more severe than those we have witnessed to date, and Netanyahu is likely to find himself responsible. God forbid, for a political and security catastrophe.

I am convinced that he has not thought this through fully. He is so preoccupied with surviving, with placating the right wing and the center, with giving interviews to the media, with taking vacations and issuing denials, that he has difficulty understanding the damage he has caused the public he leads, and the entire region, over the last two years.

Will Madeleine Albright's brilliant speech shake him up? Will the rioting in the territories, bringing down the barrier which separates him from reality?

Or perhaps the applause with which he was received at the AIPAC convention will drown out all the other sounds, and he will remain in his bubble, making speech after speech about peace and security until reality blows up in all our faces.

Blind hatred

LISA KAHN

I have a close friend who grew up in the American Midwest. She went to a public school where the other students used to throw pennies at her as she'd walk down the hall.

She had done nothing, but she was a Jew. To this day, she's terrified of letting anyone see her as different. The most awful part of it was knowing that there was nothing she could do about it.

Nothing except to deny being Jewish and pretend to be a non-Jew. It was tempting for her. There are people who do that. But we call them assimilationists and have very little respect for them.

Which makes it all the more strange when Jews, who have been victimized for millennia for no other crime than being different, demand of others that they do the same thing.

I am an Orthodox Jew. Not an ultra-liberal Orthodox Jew, mind you, but a serious, frum Jew.

And I cannot for the life of me understand why gay and lesbian Jews are treated the way they are by so many Orthodox Jews. The Torah does not condemn homosexuality. It does not even condemn all homosexual acts.

If gays and lesbians are to be condemned because some of them engage in acts prohibited by the Torah, then anyone who eats meat should be condemned because some people eat non-kosher meats.

It was with a feeling almost of despair that I read Jonathan Rosenblum's "For this we yearned" (May 15). I am normally a great fan of Rosenblum's columns. It is a pleasure to read someone who has the courage to stand up for Torah Judaism and Torah values the way he does.

But I was shocked to find him comparing gay and lesbian Jews to Amalekites and pagans and prostitutes. Reading the contemptuous tone of his column reminded me of my friend, walking through the school halls and trying not to cry as the pennies came

I am proud to be an Orthodox Jew and lesbian

flying at her through the air.

Are there gays and lesbians who preach nothing but license? Who have exchanged the Torah that is the lifeblood of our people for the empty slogan of "It feels good, do it?" Of course there are. But it is precisely the attitude displayed by Rosenblum that is to blame for much of that.

Can I tell my rabbi that I am looking for another Orthodox woman to share my life with? Can I tell my friends and neighbors and the people I know from synagogue? Would they help me find a partner? More likely they'd ask me to find somewhere else to *daven*.

With that kind of rejection as a "reward" for living in the Orthodox community, is it any wonder that so many homosexual Jews find their way to the movements that reject Jewish law?

Rosenblum rails against taking pride in Dana International's Eurovision victory. Why? Because the singer is a transsexual? Does Rosenblum honestly think that anyone would choose such a thing? Why is this particular thing of such horror to him?

Is being a transsexual, or being gay, worse in Rosenblum's estimation than violating Shabbat in public?

I am proud to be a Jew. I am proud to be a lesbian. Neither of these were a matter of choice, and both have lost me friends and made my life more difficult than it needed to be, but both have also brought me great joy.

I am tempted to spit on the anti-gay bigots in the same way I refuse to waste my breath arguing with antisemites, but I expect more from fellow Jews, and so I write this.

I am not speaking merely to Jonathan Rosenblum, but to every Jew who has shunned another Jew for no "crime" other than being gay.

To every Jew who has made rude jokes about gays and lesbians at work without considering that the person next to them may be gay, and is just afraid of subjecting themselves to that kind of mockery.

We are not an "outside" phenomenon. We are not sick and not perverted. We are of you and with you and deserve the same respect that you want for yourselves.

Try and learn to make the appropriate distinction between righteous indignation against Jews who have abandoned in the Torah and your personal feelings of discomfort from those of us who differ from you in this way. As Rosenblum pointed out, we are the bearers of God's moral message to humanity. Don't let blind hatred and xenophobia be a part of that message.

Lisa Kahn is the pen name of a computer professional living in the Jerusalem area.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MILK AND CIGARETTES

Sir. — It is extremely unfortunate that a vastly more important rights abuse was all but ignored in Judy Siegel's "Free gifts have a price for new mothers" (May 15).

What should be the true reason for the Health Ministry's 1993 ban on the free distribution of formula in hospitals was not given by the ministry's legal adviser. In 1981, 12 years previous to the ban, Israel's representative to the World Health Organization signed on a resolution to ban promotion of breastmilk substitutes in all healthcare facilities. Contrary to the legal adviser's apparent claim that free formula is a "crude entry of commercialism into medical facilities," the WHO disapproves of this practice purely for two medical reasons.

(1) It is well documented in medical literature that gift packets including formula to new

mothers in hospitals does indeed endanger success with breastfeeding.

(2) Medical documentation on the short- and long-term dangers of not giving human milk to infants is even more significant.

In an article published in 1997, Prof. Riordan reports that not breastfeeding costs the American healthcare system over \$1 billion a year when only four medical conditions were investigated — and nonbreastfeeding has been linked with higher risk for many diseases, ranging from ear infection to juvenile diabetes to a certain type of childhood cancer.

Recently, it was also associated with a higher risk for heart disease many decades after infancy.

For these alarming reasons, I found Hadassah Medical Organization's Dr. Shmuel Shapira's statement that HMO

was not bound by the Health Ministry's directive not to distribute formula "because we aren't government hospitals" an outrage.

Just how is this relevant? I seriously doubt if Dr. Shapira would encourage representatives of the cigarette industry to pass out free cigarettes in his hospital wards, with or without a directive from the Health Ministry.

The evidence that formula is a health risk comparable to smoking is so strong that there are children's rights advocates in the States who are contemplating test cases to prosecute for child abuse the giving of formula when the infant could have been breastfed.

JUDY HOLTZER KNOPF
BSc.LC

Beersheba.

STOLEN RHETORIC

Sir. — The Palestinian Arabs have succeeded over the years in stealing their whole rhetoric from us. They have determined their very recent history by adopting and truncating our very long history.

The language is all there: Diaspora, Return, the Land, Holocaust, Auschwitz, Nazi. They even claim our archeological finds as theirs.

The icing on the cake came when they had a two-minute silence on May 14 (our Gregorian Independence Day); they have now started stealing our Israeli customs which are not intrinsically Jewish and certainly not Arab.

EALLAN HIRSHFELD

Ra'anana.

MOSHE POUPKO

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On May 19, 1933, *The Palestine Post* published an eye-witness account of anti-Jewish terror in Berlin where Jews had been systematically eliminated from most businesses and industrial establishments.

50 years ago: On May 19, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported

ed that, after a night of heavy fighting, Hagana and Palmah relief units had succeeded in breaking through the Zion Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem. They joined the hard-pressed defenders of the Jewish Quarter who faced reinforced Arab Legion troops led by the

Christian officers of the British Army. Jewish Jerusalem was again shelled by Arab Legion artillery. Acre capitulated to the Hagana after a 22-hour battle, while another Egyptian plane was shot down at Tel Aviv.

Alexander Zvielli

Broken promises

EVELYN GORDON

The international spotlight on the negotiations over a second redeployment from Judea and Samaria has so far focused almost exclusively on one item: the extent of the Israeli withdrawal. What the Palestinians are supposed to give as their side of the bargain — stepped-up efforts to combat terrorism — is, apparently, of little interest to anyone.

Possibly this is because even a fleeting glance at the Palestinian quid pro quo would reveal the embarrassing fact that Yasser Arafat is selling merchandise Israel has already paid for and not merely once, but four times in the past five years.

In case anyone has forgotten, efforts to combat terrorism — including a promise to amend the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction — were what Arafat promised Yitzhak Rabin in the original Oslo Accord signed in September 1993. In exchange for this, Israel and the US recognized the PLO, and Israel began negotiating to give up parts of Judea, Samaria and Gaza to the Palestinians.

In 1994, Israel transferred control of Gaza and Jericho to Arafat under the Cairo Accord. In exchange, Arafat once again promised to increase his efforts to fight terrorism and to amend the Palestinian Covenant.

In 1995, Israel transferred control of six major West Bank cities to Arafat as part of the Oslo-2 Accord. And Arafat's side of the bargain? Yet another promise to fight terror and amend the covenant.

In January 1997, Israel transferred Hebron to the Palestinian Authority. Once again, what Arafat promised in exchange was an increased effort to fight terror and completion of the process of amending the covenant.

Now, Israel is being asked to give up another 13 percent of Judea and Samaria — in exchange for which Arafat will, for the fifth time, promise to fight terror and amend the covenant.

Arafat deserves full marks for outstanding negotiating ability. Nevertheless, he could not have accomplished this sleight of hand without the full cooperation of the international community and, because its influence on Israel is

so much greater than that of Europe, of the US in particular.

The Clinton administration has staked its prestige on keeping the process moving, and is determined to do so at any cost. But since it quickly became evident that Arafat had no intention of complying with the agreements, the only way to accomplish this goal has been to treat all promises made to Israel as expendable, while all promises made to the

The cost in blood of halting the process now will be far less than the ultimate cost of continuing it

Palestinians are sacred.

Initially, this was accomplished by falsely certifying Palestinian compliance with its anti-terror obligations. When the Israeli death toll due to terrorism became too high for even the Clinton administration to continue this tactic, it switched to assuring Israel with each new agreement that this time, Arafat would really keep his word. And Israel, afraid of confronting the US, each time pretended to believe.

NOTHING better illustrates the Clinton administration's double standard on promises than the current fight over the second redeployment. As part of the Hebron Agreement, the US pledged Israel that Jerusalem alone would determine the scope of the next redeployment. However, it later promised the Palestinians that the redeployment would be from no less than 13 percent of Judea and Samaria.

When Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was so disobliging as to insist that he wanted only a nine-percent withdrawal, Clinton could no longer keep both promises. Unsurprisingly, it is the one made to Arafat that has proven sacred: the US has refused to accept anything less than 13 percent from Israel.

In an attempt to assuage Israeli

concerns, the US is paying lip service to the idea of reciprocity by insisting that this time, there will be a real quid pro quo: The land will be transferred to the Palestinians in stages, with each stage linked to the satisfactory completion of a certain Palestinian obligation.

In this way, coupled with no-so-subtle threats of pressure and a rift in relations should Israel prove recalcitrant, President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright are hoping to make Israel overlook the fact that it is once again being asked to give up real assets in exchange for shopworn promises that the merchandise paid for five years ago will finally be delivered.

Yet it goes without saying that if Netanyahu agrees, Clinton's double standard will again click into operation, with the usual result: As soon as Israel tries to defer one of the scheduled withdrawals on the grounds that Arafat has not kept his end of the bargain, the US will either insist that Arafat has in fact complied, or say that he will surely comply soon, and meanwhile Israel should grant him the benefit of the doubt. Either way, it will pressure Israel to keep withdrawing.

But if the Clinton administration has no interest in reciprocity, Israel surely does. The peace process is inevitably creating an armed Palestinian state at Israel's throat. If this state is going to be hostile — as the unwillingness to take even such a minimal step as annulling the covenant calling for Israel's destruction indicates — the cost in blood of halting the process now will be far less than the ultimate cost of continuing it.

It is therefore past time for the Israeli government to take a clear stand on this issue: Until the Palestinians have carried out the commitments made in the first four agreements — amending the covenant, ceasing to praise terrorism, and acting to uproot the terrorist infrastructure in their territories — Netanyahu should flatly refuse to budge another inch.

Israel cannot afford to keep buying the same merchandise anew, every year, no matter how much the US would like it to do so. But only Netanyahu can insist that it actually be delivered. No one else will do it for him.

The 'invisible wall' between Germans and Jews



Blumenthal: 'When I go to Germany, I arrive there as an American and leave as a Jew.' (Paul Papier)

With \$65 in his pocket, Mike Blumenthal arrived in California in 1947, a German-born survivor of the Nazis and the Shanghai ghetto. In the decades that followed he didn't look back.

W. Michael Blumenthal went on to a distinguished career as an Ivy League economist, a corporate executive, an American trade negotiator and, as President Jimmy Carter's secretary of the Treasury, the man whose signature appeared on dollar bills.

"When I came to this country the last thing I wanted to do was delve into the past," he said in an interview in his office in Princeton, New Jersey. But a half-century later he began to look around, and back.

"There are a lot of people in this country whose backgrounds are not too dissimilar from my own," Blumenthal said, mentioning his friend Henry Kissinger, a refugee who went on to become secretary of state. "You look at them and see what they have done in this country, and you ask yourself: What is the wellspring of their psychology, mentality, energy - and my own?"

Blumenthal's digging for that wellspring led him, at 72, to a fount of Judaism. He recently completed a book, part-history, part-memoir, of three centuries of Jewish life in Germany, and also was named director of the Jewish Museum in Berlin. In addition, his name is often mentioned as the possible chairman of a US presidential commission on Nazi-looted assets, which is expected to be formed in the next few months.

"I don't think Jews are any smarter than anyone else, but I think their experience over the centuries has done something to their determination to survive," Blumenthal said. He linked this to what he calls the "unrequited love affair of Jews with their native country," the 300-year saga he tells in *The Invisible Wall: Germans and Jews - A Personal Exploration*.

THE BOOK, which is to be published in the US this month by Counterpoint, treats the Jewish-German experience as a circle, told through the stories of six members of Blumenthal's family tree.

Beginning the circle of three centuries was Jost Liebmann (1640-1702), an outcast itinerant peddler who became court jeweler to the Brandenburg nobility and one of Berlin's richest men.

Rahel Varnhagen von Ense (1771-1833) presided over a Berlin salon that won favor with Prussia's intellectual elites. But she often lamented that her birth as a Jew was her greatest curse, and was baptized as part of her constant striving to be accepted in the Christian world. In this, Blumenthal writes, she failed.

"Like a soldier, she climbed the Gentile world's invisible walls, only to be stopped short of her goal every time."

A composer of Grand Opera, Giacomo Meyerbeer (1791-1864) remained a devout Jew, but he also wanted desperately to be seen as a great German, and relentlessly strove for recognition.

Louis Blumenthal (1818-1901), the author's great-grandfather, lived in the age of Bismarck. He was a middle-class Jew who was grateful for the civil rights granted to Jews in 1871. One of the first Jews elected to the Oranienburg town council, he was the Kaiser's loyal subject, and respected and approved of Prussian law and order.

Arthur Eloesser (1870-1938) was a scholar and literary critic in the heyday of Weimar, the intellectual

"showpiece in a family of merchants and traders," Blumenthal wrote. He came from the generation of assimilated Jews who were Germany's "star pupils, eager to please."

For most of his life Eloesser knew little about Judaism. But he later studied Bible, became a Zionist and visited Palestine twice, feeling as if he had "come home. We Jews, especially we who were justified to consider ourselves quite assimilated, have in the face of so many strokes of misfortune, the one compensation - the happy insight that has enabled us to rediscover ourselves as Jews... to renew the long-buried roots of our history," he wrote.

Closing the circle was Ewald Blumenthal (1889-1990), the author's father. Once a soldier in the Kaiser's elite, he was awarded the Iron Cross. His was a thoroughly assimilated family.

An "emphasis on Jewishness," Blumenthal wrote, was evidence of a "flawed assimilation - a not sufficiently complete Germanness."

BLUMENTHAL got his first exposure to Jewish religion and tradition only after the Nuremberg laws barred him from his German education and forced him to study at a special Jewish school. There he learned to light candles, sing Hebrew songs and celebrate the Sabbath. Once he was chosen to chant the blessings solo.

"I distinctly recall the mixture of embarrassment and bemusement with which the news of my triumph was received at home," he wrote.

While Eloesser was delighted with Palestine, for Blumenthal's parents living there was out of the question.

"We are not Zionists," they would say dismissively. "We're Europeans, and don't belong in the Orient," Blumenthal wrote. "Sometimes my father would add - only half in jest - that he couldn't imagine living with 'nothing but Jews.'"

When his father was born, German Jewry stood at its height, Blumenthal wrote. "A half-century later, he fled the country much as Jost had entered it three centuries earlier - an alien Jew without property or rights."

The family fled Germany on April 6, 1939, bound for the only place that would admit them, Shanghai. His refuge was not a "normal place," Blumenthal wrote, "but an eight-year waiting room."

Blumenthal's name has been banded about as the head of an American presidential commission that will examine US policy on Nazi-looted assets. No decision has yet been made about the composition of the commission, which is being considered by the US Congress.

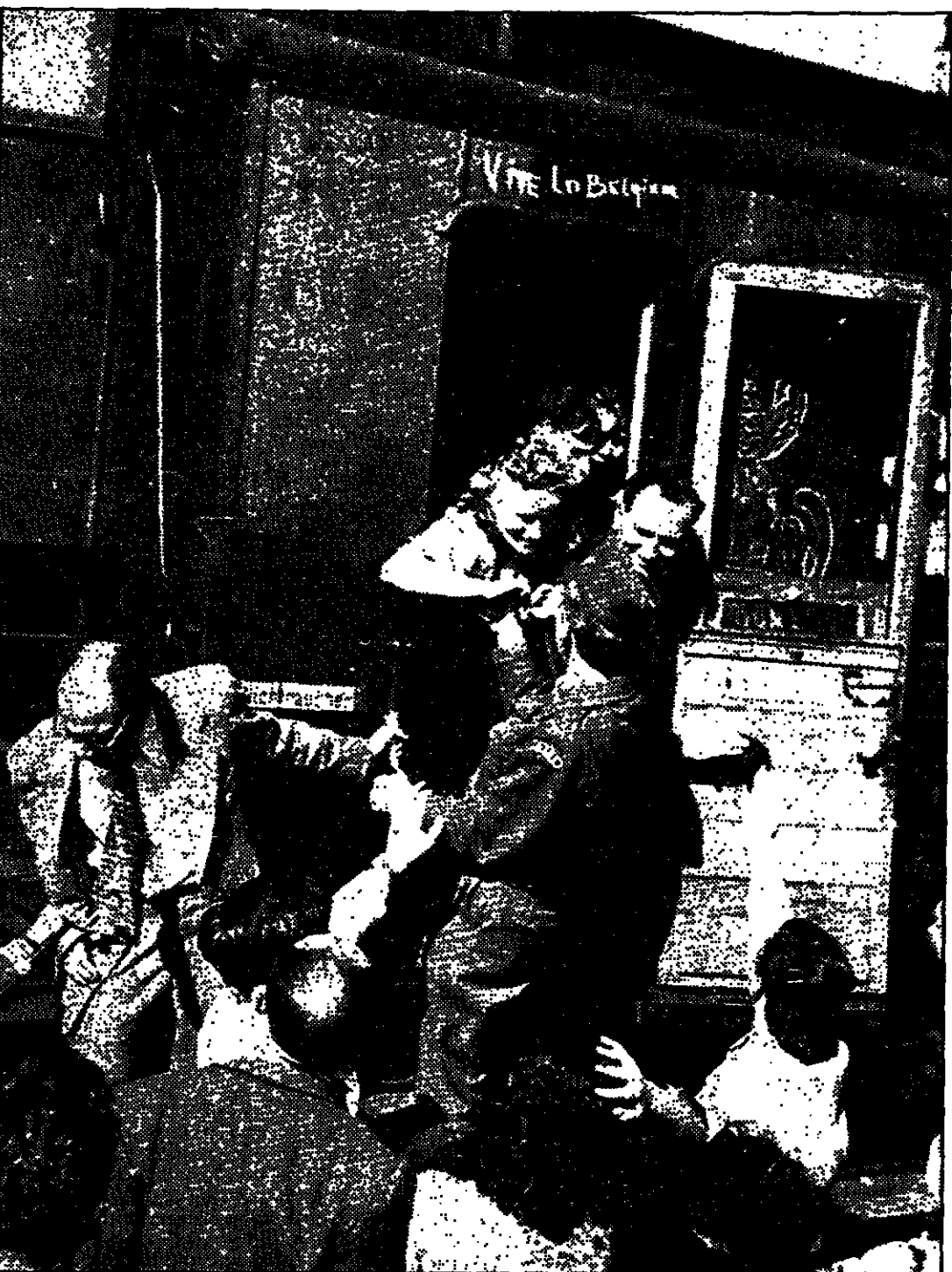
Blumenthal is grateful to the US and to Americans who "didn't ask who I was, but asked what I could do and let me develop my talents and lead my life the way I wanted to."

But he is not blind to the American past. In his book he wrote that the universal refusal to help German refugees remains one of the great tragedies and scandals of the time, and that the US was no exception.

The former cabinet official, who has vivid memories of Nazi brownshirts standing in front of his parents' shattered store in Berlin after Kristallnacht and its later expropriation by the authorities, also is an advocate of restitution.

"It is unacceptable to me that even at this late stage we would fail to focus on situations where

Mike Blumenthal escaped the Nazis to soar to the summit of US economic life. Jews aren't smarter than anyone else, he says, but history has honed their will to survive. Marilyn Henry heard about his new book, which tells of German Jews' 'unrequited love affair' with Germany



German Jewish refugees get off a train at war's end: 'I want people to understand what it was like to be a Jew in Germany,' says Blumenthal, now director of Berlin's Jewish Museum. (Beth Hasefuroth)

countries or industries benefited in an obvious way from the Holocaust and did not make amends where they could," he said. However, he also acknowledges that restitution is complicated, and in some instances, "it is almost impossible to be fair to everybody."

This is an issue he has encountered, albeit in a small way, in the Berlin museum, which has had to reckon with silver menorahs and other Judaica collected by the Nazis.

"Who gets them? Does a German museum exhibit them? Are they given to us, to a Jewish museum? Are they sold and the

money used for some general welfare purpose?" Blumenthal said. "This is part of dealing with memory. I think it has to be resolved."

BLUMENTHAL's book appears two years after the publication of Daniel Goldhagen's popular *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, which theorizes a near-universal German propensity for "annihilationist" antisemitism.

The Invisible Wall was "not intended to be an answer to Goldhagen," Blumenthal said. Nonetheless, he challenges Goldhagen, by saying that German-Jewish relations are not that simple. "It's a more nuanced

picture," Blumenthal said.

He shifts easily and often in an interview from a discussion of his book to a discussion of the Jewish Museum in Berlin, which he sees as having the same aims.

At the museum, Blumenthal replaced Amnon Barzel, the Israeli director who was fired last year after clashing with Berlin municipal officials over autonomy for the museum. It is scheduled to open next year.

"Hopefully, that is what this [Berlin] museum will do: show the whole history of the German-Jewish relationship, with its high points - it had some high points - and with its ultimate failure," he said.



A Berlin synagogue on fire on Kristallnacht: Blumenthal remembers Nazi brownshirts standing in front of his parents' shattered store.

said. "I want people to understand what it was like to be a Jew in Germany, to be Jost Liebmann at the end of the 17th century, walking from one town to the other, a total outcast."

But he does not want to deny or mask what he called "the enormous strength and glory of these Jews who, against huge odds, accomplished great things," Blumenthal said. "I want people to understand the willpower, the energy, the determination not to give up, and to survive and succeed in this very hostile environment over a long period of time."

In addition to conveying the history of German Jewry, Blumenthal also hopes the museum will teach about the future.

"What is the memory of the Holocaust? How do you deal with it?" he asked. "Of course, you deal with it to grieve, but that is not enough. I want this museum to be a place where lessons are drawn about tolerance. 'Hopefully they will draw the lessons of how to live with minorities - whether they are Turks in Germany or Vietnamese, or minorities of other religions, races, languages,'" he said.

"Because after all, in a global world, in the next century, this is going to be very common. Borders don't mean what they did any-

Although the vast percentage of Germans are one or two generations removed from the Holocaust, that heritage weighs very heavily on non-Jewish Germans and Jews living in Germany.

"The relationship is not yet normal," Blumenthal said. "Maybe that is not unnatural a half-century after such a traumatic and terrible event." He quickly noted one "unnatural aspect," however: "Each time I go there, I arrive in Germany as an American, and I leave there as a Jew, because nobody lets you forget." Some of that, of course, has to do with his new post as director of the Jewish Museum.

But "within the first 20, 30 minutes of any discussion - maybe about totally different things - somehow people let you know they know you are a Jew, sometimes in a nice and sophisticated way, a friendly way. They do it to show you how much they like Jews," he said.

"They don't look at me and say, 'This is Mike Blumenthal, an American.' They say, 'This is Mike Blumenthal, a Jew.'"

Although he now has a job in Berlin, Blumenthal has no interest in taking up permanent residence. "I left Germany as a child," he said. "Except for language, when it comes to the way Germans live their lives and the German mentality, it is quite foreign to me."

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Watching the news with Dad

Recently, my parents visited from the US. Both my parents are very concerned about breaking news events in the Middle East and the peace process, but my father takes the news particularly seriously. After all, he has two reasons to watch the news carefully. Like any good American Jew, he is worried about the future of the Jewish state, and like any good father, he is worried about the safety and well-being of his daughter.

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

So while they were here, I found myself in the position each evening of having to translate the evening news programs so he could keep up with the important events of the day. I didn't realize that this would become a bit embarrassing.

It all started shortly before Independence Day, when Dad saw Knesset members arguing heatedly on the screen. "What are they arguing about?" he asked. "Well, you see," I explained, "these modern dancers are supposed to appear in a big show wearing bikini under-

Less than a week later, we were once again watching the evening news. This time, he wanted to know why a woman dressed in feathers was all over the television screen — he knew that she wasn't Madeleine Albright — and why she was visiting the Knesset with such a media entourage. "Well, you see, Dad, that's Dana International. She's a transsexual who just won this big European song contest. Everyone is talking about what this means and whether or not we should host next year's song contest in Jerusalem, or not."

Again, he squinted again in disbelief. "International? That doesn't sound like a Jewish name to me."

Finally, just before his departure, he had time to witness one more scandal. Once more, there were shots of performers, angry politicians, and a harried-looking Weizman on the nightly news. He looked at me with a raised eyebrow. "OK, what happened now?" "You see, Dad, Weizman

'If people have the time to argue about transsexuals, song contests and underwear,' Dad said, 'things here must be pretty good'

wear and the government doesn't want them to."

"Wait, there's President Weizman! What is he saying?" "He's offered a compromise proposal to solve the crisis. He thinks they should wear long Johns."

My father shot me a withering look. "Stop teasing me, OK? Come on, seriously, what are they really talking about?"

A few days later we were back in front of the television, watching pictures of religious government ministers visiting Tel Aviv, and angry crowds of people shouting epithets at them.

"Wow!" my father said. "The debate over the West Bank withdrawal process seems to be really heating up. Look at those demonstrators!" I took a deep breath.

"No, Dad. You see, remember that dance with the underwear? Well, they are upset that after the dancers refused to wear long Johns, they didn't appear at all. So now they are angry at the ministers who caused it."

He still thought I was toying with him, but I convinced him when I pointed out that female peace demonstrators wouldn't be taking off their shirts.

invited these soldiers to sing at his swearing-in ceremony, but only the man singer, not the woman, because religious politicians are forbidden to hear the voices of the woman singers. "Oh, like they can't listen to Dana International?"

"Well, actually, they could listen to Dana International, because her voice is really that of a man, not a woman. But they probably couldn't deal with her outfits. Dana could probably appear at the president's swearing-in ceremony, but only if she agreed to wear long underwear."

I just said good-bye to my father. As he boarded the plane, he was in a light-hearted mood. "Well, this was a good visit," he concluded. "When I left the United States, I thought that we were at a crucial turning point in history, that the Middle East was on the brink of crisis, that tough decisions regarding war and peace were being hammered out."

"But now that I've been here, and I see what people are really spending their time arguing about. I figure if people have the time to argue about transsexuals, song contests, and underwear, things must be pretty good."



Clowns shouldn't be the exaggeratedly made-up characters found in today's circuses, says the artistic director of the Big Apple Circus. They should be witty commentators on the human condition.

Clowning around

Ringling Bros. is creating a Clown College graduate program which will bring the age-old art form into the era of 'Seinfeld' and in-line skates, Tamara Ikenberg writes

If circus clown Bryan Fulton had to change the image of his Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey colleagues, he'd inject a little testosterone. "I'd kinda like to be a superhero, all suave out of makeup," says Fulton, a 19-year-old Baltimore native wearing knee socks, shorts, checked blue and red vest, and oversized red tie. "Then, I'd go into a phone booth and come out as Super Clown." Fulton may have his chance, because the 127-year-old circus is changing the way it approaches clown training.

The Ringling Brothers Clown College, which was established in 1968 in Florida, is closed, and the circus is developing a Clown College Graduate Program. The program is still in the planning stages, but representatives of Feld Entertainment, which owns Ringling Bros., say it will include more specialized, theatrically oriented Masters of Comedy Workshops.

These workshops will be tailored to the interests of performers looking to expand their basic clowning skills, including the approximately 1,500 graduates of Clown College. The number of college programs and workshops nationwide that teach clowning basics have rendered the original Clown College unnecessary. According to spokesman Rodney Huey, "there's no need to get those kids right out of high school, it's a different world."

The new workshops will also make clowning more contemporary, since other elements of the circus have become increasingly modern. Acts now involve basketball players unicycling to techno music; professional daredevil in-line skaters; and an audience-participation "Macarena." In the future, clowns may appear in Seinfeldian skits satirizing everyday life and doing contemporary gags centered on computers and the tribulations of today. "Throughout their history, clowns have been relating to contemporary events," says LaVahn Hob, a drama professor at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville who teaches the class "The Circus in America."

In the late 18th century, a clown named Dan Rice appeared with his pig Lord Byron and mused on politics, and the pig would snort. Rice, who wore a red and white suit and top hat, was the model for Uncle Sam. But as circuses evolved into three rings in the 19th century, gags had to become broader to work in the larger setting, and the talking clown became extinct. "There are still a lot of stock bits that clowns do that poke fun at society," Hob says. "The pie-throwing routines have always been a vicarious outlet for aggression toward society."

Dominique Jando, associate artistic director at the one-ring Apple Circus in New York City, disagrees. He sees Ringling's new clown training as an opportunity to instill the skills that were developed in the more intimate one-ring format. He says that clowns in the three-ring format can't relate to the audience. The three-ring circus developed because entrepreneurs owned circuses were very popular in America in the late 1800s, and the owners thought that by adding more rings they could attract bigger audiences.

"That's an American accident," Jando says of the three-ring circus. "That killed clowning in this country. Clowns shouldn't be the broadly humorous, exaggeratedly made-up characters found in today's circuses. Instead, they should be witty commentators on the human condition with whom audiences can identify."

Rice and the clowns of his age satirized society, as did the bald-headed buffoons of ancient Greece who are considered the earliest ancestors of the clown. The first professional stage clowns came from the Elizabethan theater, at which point Shakespeare has been credited with coining the word "clown." The clown costume we've come to know — floppy shoes, waistcoats and hats — developed in Germany. "But the makeup wasn't grotesque," Jando says. "American clowns are the only ones with cartoonish makeup designed for recognition from a distance."

IN THE 1960s, former Ringling Bros. owner and producer, Irvin Feld, noticed that the clowns in his circus, most of whom learned their skills through apprenticeships, were getting old. So he created the now-defunct Clown College, an eight-week program that accepted only about 30 of nearly 2,000 applicants annually. The curriculum of clown college included such basic skills as unicycling, juggling and still-walking. Clowns also learned how to apply makeup, develop characters, and write bits for the circus.

"In Clown College, students worked six days a week for nearly 12 hours a day," says John Lynch, a Ringling clown who was trained at Clown College. "Clowns were also instilled with the clown's code of honor. They must always be in full costume in a professional setting, and cannot engage in any un-clown-like behavior."

"We follow unwritten rules. You never see or hear a clown curse or smoke," says Rios, a New York native. "It's like seeing Mickey Mouse without his head on. That can damage a kid."

"Pop culture representations of clowns, which are another facet of American clown history, can be equally damaging," Hob says. "We can take something as harmless as a clown and turn it into an ax murderer, or a bawdy idiot, as in the movie 'Shakes the Clown,' or a washed-up sellout Krusty on 'The Simpsons,' or the evil Pennywise of Stephen King's 'It.' They're very damaging to what clowns should portray."

"If Americans understood the clowning tradition and considered the circus an art form, they might not produce such distorted images of clowns in the media." Rios, Lynch and Fulton aren't too threatened by their creepy counterparts. "It's funny. We can laugh at it," Rios says. "We all have a sense of humor. And that will never change." (The Baltimore Sun)

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Diplomats don't usually get their hands dirty. But Australian Ambassador Ian Wilcock was quite happy to soil his when planting a sapling in the Arthur Calwell Forest, at the Arthur Calwell monument at Ksalem in the Jerusalem Mountains. Arthur Calwell, as Australia's first federal minister of immigration from 1945 to 1949, enabled tens of thousands of European refugees, including survivors of the Holocaust, to make new lives for themselves in the southernmost continent. Among those refugees were the parents of Wilcock's wife, Tamara. "I would not have my wife were it not for Arthur Calwell," said Wilcock, who refers to his wife and sons as "Calwell babies."

Among those attending the dedication ceremony were the late minister's daughter, Mary Elizabeth Calwell, who began and ended her short speech in Hebrew; Alan Slade, president of the Jewish National Fund of Australia; Michael Naphthali, president of the Victorian Division of the JNF of Australia; Sadie Slonim, who spearheaded the project; Maurice Cohen, a longtime colleague of Calwell's; and Paul Moravetz, who was among those who had persuaded Calwell to adopt a humanitarian policy toward the Jewish remnant of Europe.

NEVER one to miss an opportunity to raise money for any of the causes she supports, Raya Jaglom found herself sitting next to Vivian Clure Duffield at the Shenkar dinner and promptly tapped her for \$10,000 toward a Lola Beer memorial room to be incorporated in Shenkar's new building project.

Jaglom, who with two other close friends of Beer's initiated the room, ascertained from the building's architect that its total cost would be \$100,000. Together with her own contribution, she already has \$40,000 in hand and expects to have the rest in the very near future. The room will feature a permanent display of Beer's couture creations.

ANYONE who expects an 85th birthday to be a quiet, sedate affair hasn't been to a birthday party for Margaret Morse, the dynamic Miami-based travel agent who, in the 16 years she's been in business, has personally brought thousands of (mostly Jewish) Americans on group tours to Israel. A former dancer and musician, the thrice-married Morse got out on the dance floor at the Renaissance Jerusalem Hotel and showed her guests — who included representatives of many branches of the tourist industry — that she can still carry a tune and that, despite an arthritic knee, she still knows how to boogie.

Morse, who made her first trip to Israel in 1980, was so overwhelmed by the experience that, together with her daughter, Wendy, she took up a new challenge. For their first tour, they signed up 1,100 people, and Morse, who makes a point of accompanying her groups, went around Israel three times without going home. The secret of her success, according to Harvey Douglas who runs the Renaissance, is that "she produces the best of the best at the price of the mediocre."

But it's a bit more than that. Morse's enthusiasm for Israel is so contagious that anyone who comes within her orbit cannot help but be affected.

WHEN Roj Ben-Yosef, who heads the Tel Aviv branch of the Friends of Bezael, joined forces with Sotheby's to hold a festive dinner and auction of works by young Bezael graduates Judith Sassportas, Gilad Efrat, Uri Gershuni, Osnat Avital, Eyal Adler, Moti Yifrah and others, she sent out scores of invitations but received very few confirmations from invitees. But her fears of a flop were groundless. Over 200 people attended, including such well-known art lovers as Eliezer Fishman and Yekutiel Federmann, and all the works put up for auction were sold. "We made a lot of money," declared a satisfied Ben-Yosef, but she declined to name the sum.

FREQUENT flyer Rabbi David Rosen, who heads the Israel Office of the Anti-Defamation League, was out of the country in the week preceding his 25th wedding anniversary and only just made it to the celebration organized by his wife, Sharon, at Michael-Andrew, the elegant restaurant in Jerusalem's Zionist Confederation House. The Rosens are vegetarians but fish was available for guests who wanted something a little more substantial.

LIKUD activist Yosef Steiner who, during his youth in Australia served as head of Betar, decided to have a wide-ranging celebration as possible to mark his 70th birthday, and apparently went through all his old telephone directories and address books to formulate a guest list. Among the hundreds of invitees who trailed through the gracious Ramat Gan house which he shares with his wife, Dora, were people whom he hadn't seen in 40 years. The numerous reunions were not only with the man of the hour, but also among old friends and acquaintances who had geographically, socially and politically drifted apart and were delighted to have so pleasant an excuse to meet up again. Some of the faces in the crowd belonged to broadcaster Dan Kaner; former finance minister Yoram Aridor; ex-Mossadnik David Ben-David; deputy defense minister Silvan Shalom and his wife, Judy Shalom Nir Mozes; Foreign Ministry veteran Keava (Gwen)



Noa Ben-Artzi and mom Dalia Pelosoff raise funds for Tel Hashomer. (Sivan Farag)

Gorri, the Hebrew University's Elias Honig and his wife, Helen; Yossi Ahimeir, who was bureau chief for prime minister Yitzhak Shamir; Australian Jewish community leaders Ili and Naomi Leibler; retired lawyer Jonathan Shekav and his wife, Chana; and Betar old boys Jack Mirjam, Shimon Feder and Theo Balshayzski.

THERE'S been a long-standing mutual admiration between actress Liv Ullman and former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek. Ullman, who was in the capital last week as the guest of Jerusalem Foundation director Ruth Cheshin, taped a special greeting to Kollek, which will be screened at the Jerusalem Cinematheque on May 26, the day before Kollek's 87th birthday.

Ullman made the tape at the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School, which is conferring an Honorary Fellowship on Kollek to add to all his other honorary titles. The ceremony will take place in tandem with the school's fifth graduation festivities.

SOME 600 of the best known of the nation's fair sex, including three generations of the Rabin family, congregated on the lawn of the Sayvon home of Hila and Ran Rabin for a Tel Hashomer hospital fund-raiser, courtesy of couture designers Gideon and Karen Osherson. Other celebrities and well-known socialites in addition to Leah Rabin, Dalia Pelosoff and Noa Ben-Artzi, included Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Dana Wexler-Spector, Pnina Dvornin, Dorit Sarid, Elisheva Milo, Elana As, Yael Shavit and just about everyone who has appeared on the social pages of *La'isha*, *Ar* and *Olam Ha'isha* over the past two years.



(From left) Actress and Teddy Kollek admiring Liv Ullman, Tamar and Teddy Kollek and Ruth Cheshin. (Yosv Loeff)

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Torn between two genders

Dear Ruthie, I am a newly religious Jew who is also bisexual. When I became religious, I decided to turn my back on what I was and I no longer went out with men. My intention, since then, was to be attracted to, was to simply get married, raise a family and forget about the whole thing. Unfortunately, things haven't worked out quite that way.

I still find myself looking at men more often than women. On top of that, I've had less than stellar success at meeting a woman. I'm beginning to wonder if maybe I made a mistake by giving up on what I had. I feel like what Harvey Firestein says to his bisexual lover in the film *Torchsong* Trilogy: "How can you be happy with a woman when you know you really want to be with a man?"

In addition, the article "Gender Bender" (Jerusalem Post Magazine, May 8) got me thinking about something I haven't allowed myself to think about for a long time. While I don't think I'm quite the same as Bracha (in the article), I don't feel so desperate to be a woman that I would kill myself over it. It is something I've felt for a long time and am also having trouble dealing with it. Needless to say, I haven't told anyone here about this and I don't have anyone to talk to, either. I hope you can give me some good advice about what to do.

Totally Confused
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Ruthie, Before tackling the whole question of your sexual desires and gender identification, you would do well to examine your delving into religious Judaism. From what you describe, it sounds as though you were drawn to becoming religious in the hopes that this would "cure" you of something that was causing you tremendous ambivalence and distress. Rather than confronting these emotions, you opted to don a

completely different lifestyle — one with strict rules about this particular question — as a way of putting "the whole thing" behind you.

You are now learning the hard way that external moves do not constitute internal change.

Not only are you still more attracted to men than you are to women, but you often see yourself as a member of the opposite sex. Such deep-seated feelings about your sexuality and your gender are not likely to vanish into thin air. What you refer to as your "less than stellar success" with women is a result of this — not the cause.

Sexuality is something projected — sometimes consciously, but always unconsciously — and responded to by others. Apparently, in spite of your genuine intention to adopt a completely heterosexual way of life, including a wife and family, the vibes you project have a mind of their own.

Having nobody with whom you can talk about this must make you feel extremely lonely, in addition to everything else you are experiencing. I strongly recommend that you seek professional counseling to help you figure out who you are, what you really want, and to clarify the choices you must make to live the fullest life possible.

You might end up opting for a religious life and all that entails in any case. Or you might find yourself choosing an altogether different path. Hopefully, whatever decisions you ultimately make will be internal ones, not futile attempts to wish away your problem.

If you are hesitant to seek help for fear of having your problem exposed, you might consider therapy in another city.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@post.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in *La'isha* and in *City Lights* on Fridays.)

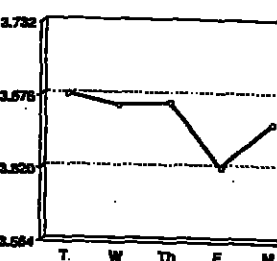


Ruthie Blum

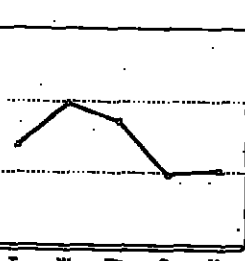
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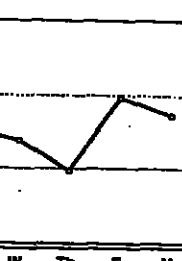
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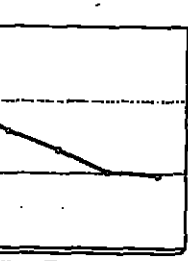
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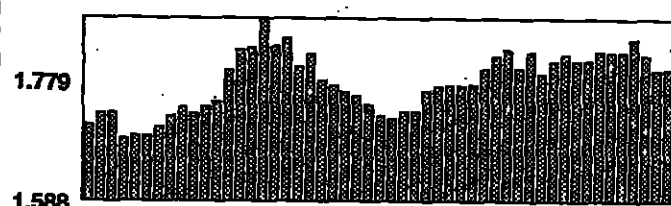
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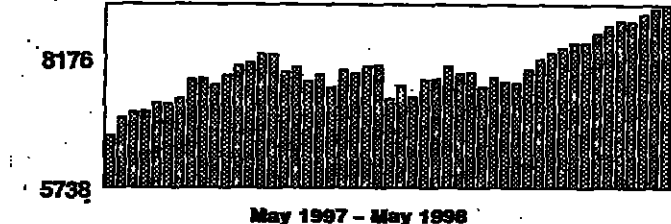
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Israel Lands Administration Ministry of Construction and Housing
Central District
Invitation to submit bids for lease of 28 plots for two-family houses (with common wall) at Kfar Yona
Tender 66/98/mem resh

The Israel Lands Administration (ILA) invites bids from those interested in signing 3 year development agreements, after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for 28 buildings plots for two-family houses (with common wall) in Kfar Yona.

Urban Building Plan 2/85/1-2/bet memhet zadik indicates that the plots are zoned as Residential Area A-2, Two Family (with common wall). The building percentage is 30, with a total of 50% of the main area on two floors (not including a roof balcony), plus auxiliary areas (not included), plus a room on the roof (maximum of 23 sq.m. for each unit) and a storeroom of 15 sq.m. for each unit (within the borders of the building). On each plot there will be two covered parking places and a basement. The houses will be two-storied and ten meters above the entrance level of the building.

In addition to the sum paid for the land, the successful bidder will be required to pay the development costs, as detailed in the tender booklet, directly to the Ministry of Construction and Housing. This sum will be linked to the building index for March 1998 (published on April 15, 1998) and updated according to the last index known at the time of payment. The sum of NIS 6,946, including VAT, linked to the building index for February 1998 is to be paid to the Kfar Yona Local Council.

Bidders may bid for up to two plots offered in this tender, but will not be awarded more than one plot. The ILA reserves the right to accept any offer and to reject all offers, including the highest.

The tender booklet will be available from May 19, 1998, on submission of a receipt of payment into the ILA account, No. 0-24190-0 at the Postal Bank for NIS 250 per booklet (including VAT, cash only). The booklets will be available at the offices of the ILA, 88 Derech Patah Tikva, Tel Aviv; Tel. 83-633-3383, during regular office hours.

A bank check or bank guarantee for the sum of NIS 20,000 must be attached to all bids. Last date for submitting bids: July 2, 1998 at 12 noon. A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, will not be considered.

This announcement is for the purpose of general knowledge only. It does not obligate the ILA in any way, either in terms of content or dates. The binding terms are those contained in the tender documents and their appendices.

Despite falling sales

Tadiran 1st qtr. net up 31%

Tadiran yesterday announced that first quarter net income rose 30.6 percent to \$20.3 million from \$15.5 million a year earlier despite a decline in earnings.

The profit figure included, however, a capital gain of \$7.4m. from the sale of 5% of ImcoWave Tadiran Telecommunications Wireless Systems to the Raychem Corporation. Excluding the capital gain, net income would have increased by only 11% to approximately \$13 million.

Following the release of the results, which were above analysts' expectations, Tadiran's shares rose 1.8% on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange to NIS 156.2.

Sales for the first quarter fell to \$257.1m., compared with \$277.8m. The electronics manufacturer said that despite the decrease in sales, gross profit increased 3.9%, to \$79.9m. from \$76.9m. a year ago.

Tadiran also said that all operating segments were profitable, with its communications arm increasing operating income 36.7% due to the improved product mix. The company noted that the telecommunications segment improved its operating margins slightly despite the loss of sales to the Far East.

Tadiran's appliances and banners arm reported that operating income increased from \$100,000 in the first quarter of 1997 to \$1.3m. this year due to production efficiencies resulting from workforce reductions.

Israel's Zamir, Tadiran's president and CEO, said that profitability continued to improve, in spite of the decrease in sales to principal customers. He attributed the rise in net income to the success of new products, better market conditions, ongoing cost control, and efficiency programs.

He added that "our global sales continue to strengthen as we penetrate new markets and significantly broaden our customer base. We believe that the increasing quality and diversity of our customer base will lead to expanded sales in the future."

Zamir also said that the purchasing of the wireless microwave telecommunications activities of California Microwave will complement the company's efforts in wireless telecommunications.

The company's exports, which

totalled \$140.5 million, comprise 55% of total sales, compared to 56% in the first quarter of 1997.

COMPANY RESULTS

By DAN GERSTENFELD and MIRIAM GILBERT

The company said that at the end of the first quarter's backlog stood at \$919 million, compared to \$961 million at the end of 1997.

Polgat's net falls 42% to NIS 2.4m. Polgat, the Tel Aviv-based textile concern, reported a 42% drop in first quarter profits, to NIS 2.4 million compared with NIS 4.2 million a year earlier, mostly due to the slowdown in the local market.

At the same time, the company's exports grew 38%, totaling \$34.9 million, compared with \$25.3 million in 1997. As a result, the company said it is examining the partial or complete sale of its local retail operations. This is in line with a decision to focus activities on production, most of which is for export markets.

Last week, Polgat announced the establishment of a \$5.5 million joint venture with a Jordanian company, Century Investments, for the establishment of a sewing and production factory for its

Bagir line in Irbid. Joint ventures in the area will be entitled to export to the US, under the extension of its free trade agreement with Israel to the area.

Last week, the joint US-Israeli-Jordan committee on qualified industrial zones began accepting applications for export to the US under the free trade agreement from joint ventures. Polgat said the Jordanian factory would be exporting mostly to the US.

In the first quarter, Polgat said most of its boost in exports was due to increased sales in its main export markets, the US and England. As a result, Polgat's exports are expected to total 66% of sales this year, compared with 55% last year.

Despite an increase in revenues in the quarter to NIS 180m., compared with NIS 167m., profits were hurt by the slowdown in the local market, which affected the company's retail operations.

In the quarter, Polgat also invested NIS 18 million in equipment and factory structures, mostly in improving the technology of the production process, with the aim of boosting production capabilities for exports.

One of Polgat's major clients is UK-based Marks & Spencer.

Frenkel: Gov't must cut taxes

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said yesterday that the government must reduce the high tax burden.

Frenkel told foreign analysts that the government needs to reduce its involvement in the economy and accelerate structural reforms.

"I'm optimistic about the future of the Israeli economy, not because of what policy-makers do, but because it is well integrated into the global market," Frenkel said.

He noted that the decision to gradually open markets, and especially the completion of the foreign currency liberalization, are a clear statement that the Israeli economy is ready to continue integrating into the world economy.

Frenkel added that the central bank will not settle for a decline in inflation and will try to achieve price stability. He said monetary policy will continue to be based on serious and professional foundations.

London tops Tokyo in equity management

London displaced Tokyo as the world's leading center for equity management in 1997, spurred by a 48 percent jump in equity assets, research company Technimetrics Inc. reported yesterday.

Institutional equity management in London topped \$1.8 trillion in assets, up from a 1996 total of \$1.2 trillion, it said in its annual International Target Cities Report, carried by PRNewswire-Asianet.

New York, in second place, had assets of \$1.55 trillion, the report said. Boston was in third place with \$1.13 trillion and Zurich was fifth with \$579.3 billion.

London's jump from 1996 to first place as Tokyo fell to fourth, ending almost four years of dominance as the world's top center for equities management.

A 1997 stock market rally of almost 25% helped boost London's institutional equity holdings and make it the world's top equity management center for the first time, it said.

Tokyo, with \$1.10 trillion, lost 32% of its assets under management, hit by the collapse of currencies and stock markets throughout East and Southeast Asia.

This contrasted with its dominance as recently as 1990, when Tokyo institutional equity management was worth more than that of the following 14 cities combined.

Institutional money managers around the world control approximately \$12 trillion, of which 83%, or \$10.1 trillion is managed in 25 cities, the report said. It said these top cities represent about 48% of the world's total market capitalization, which Technimetrics estimated at \$20.9 trillion as of the end of 1997.

North American institutional investment in equities totalled \$6.5 trillion at the end of 1997, up 30%.

The report said US institutional investment in foreign equities increased 23% last year, with Europe dominating a push by investors for diversification.

(Reuters)

IFC calls to lift remaining currency restrictions

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Israel needs to lift all the remaining restrictions on foreign currency trading and develop its debt market, Farida Khambata, director of the treasury operations department at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), said yesterday.

The IFC, which is the private financing arm of the World Bank, issued shekel-denominated 1-year bonds on the Eurobond market late last month, immediately after the government announcement on the foreign currency reform.

Speaking to foreign analysts at the "Israel Economic Prospects into the Next Millennium" conference in Tel Aviv, Khambata said that the shekel-denominated bonds were well received by international investors.

She praised the liberalization of the shekel, calling it a "strong statement" but criticized the government decision to shelve its plan to lift restrictions on foreign investors dealing in options and futures.

"Israel will become extremely attractive to the international financial community, particularly Israeli debt. But, in order for

that to happen, these institutional investors will want to be able to hedge the currency risk and maybe the interest rate risk," Khambata said.

She said that the Israel debt market is not developed enough, saying that with the liberalization there will be a tendency for Israeli companies to get debt funding from abroad.

"This has already started with the Israel Electric Corporation [which launched last year a \$1 billion global medium-term note program] and while this is in many ways is beneficial, looking at the currency flows of the

assets and liabilities is something that companies will have to get used to, and to hedge."

The IFC official also said that developing an active bond market, where government bonds do not necessarily predominate and where there is secondary trading, requires allowing people to have both government and corporate bonds and to have derivatives markets that grow alongside.

Khambata concluded that "Israel has taken an important step, much needs to be done, and transparency and disclosure are vital."

Plan in works to float Bezeq stake

Government to discuss sale of 49% of El Al

By DAVID HARRIS

Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni will, in the coming days, present Bezeq directors with a plan to sell a substantial portion of the company, she said yesterday.

Livni also said the government will discuss a proposal to sell 49 percent of El Al on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Speaking to reporters, Bezeq chairman Izzy Tapoohi said he

hopes the sale of 25% of the telephone company will be by means of a flotation in New York, to take place within 12-18 months. Currently the government holds some 60% of Bezeq.

Addressing a conference of international analysts, Tapoohi said that on completion of the privatization process, the company could consider operating with strategic partners, or a future merger.

He said that by 1999 the company will have reduced its work force by 21%, leaving 2.4 workers for every 1,000 lines, which he said would be the best ratio in the world.

As part of a restructuring plan, 1,200 technicians will be retained as salespeople and the company will appoint 400 customer representatives.

Tapoohi said he favors the sale of shares via bourses both at home and abroad over the sale of controlling shares.

With regards to the future, Tapoohi said he believes the Israeli telecommunications sector will become overcrowded "so, I'll look to other places - look at Cable & Wireless with interests all over the world."

Concerning El Al, Livni said the cabinet will discuss the issue on June 1st.

"We are keen to leave the company," she said.

El Al chairman Joseph Ciechanover said the government, the workers, the management and the company board are all ready to push ahead with privatization. He said the no-Shabbat-flights, security and worker-compensation issues can all be resolved.

"We can immediately go ahead with privatization," he said. "We are doing a lot to change the company, image-wise and operational-wise."

He said that the first-quarter figures will show a much smaller loss than in the same period last year. "The comparison is very, very encouraging," he said.

He promised a change of look for the aircrafts both inside and out.

At the end of the year, El Al will stage a pre-privatization road show, he said. At that point, the company will be "at least on the verge of profitability."

"At the beginning of next year, we'll be able to see El Al in the public market," Ciechanover said.

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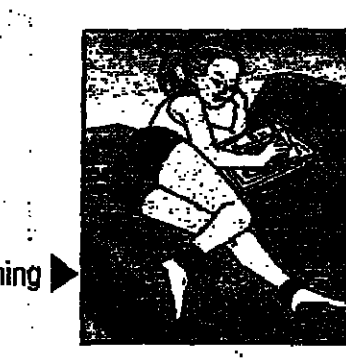
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25/98/9050	ADSL Access System Framework Agreement	30.6.98	02-539614	NIS 1,000

General Tender Participation Conditions:

- Pre-conditions:
 - Compliance with all laws, including laws relating to the keeping of account books, registering as an authorized trader, registering as a company, holding necessary licenses, and complying with relevant standard specifications.
 - Providing a guarantee, to ensure execution of bid offer - as detailed in tender documents.
- The tender documents can be obtained from the Purchasing Unit, Tenders and Orders Dept., 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday to Thursday. The tender documents will be provided, on submitting a receipt, showing that the cost of the documents (as noted above) has been paid. Payment may be made:
 - * In Israel - into Postal Bank acc. 5-311757
 - * Abroad - into Acc. 12-901-97833/64 at the Jerusalem central branch of Bank Leumi LeIsrael.
 The cost of the tender documents from non-returnable. The receipt plus details of the supplier, including authorized trader's number, may be sent by fax to 972-2-5378113. To confirm that fax has been received, call 972-2-539-5814.
- Bids must be deposited in the tenders box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem.
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, or to order all the required goods/services from one bidder.
- Bids sent by fax or telegram cannot be considered.

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER LAY CASHMAN

19.5 Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon will be among the speakers at a conference at Gan Oranim on The Utilization of Agricultural Lands. The event is being co-sponsored by Globes Enterprises, the National Kibbutz Movement, the United Kibbutz Movement, and the Moshav Movement. Subjects listed for discussion include government policy on state owned lands, and the execution of decisions taken by the Israel Lands Council.

19.5 Unusual developments in the field of plastics will be revealed at the Israel Association for Polymers and Plastics Convention, which is being held at the Haifa International Convention Center. Israel's plastics industry, with 400 companies and 21,000 workers, generates an annual turnover of \$2.4 billion, of which just over a third is from exports.

19.5 David Solomon of Solomon Holdings will conduct the first of four workshops on Recruiting Capital for Start-Up Companies. The workshop will take place in the lecture hall of the Israel Export Institute in Tel Aviv. The other three workshops will be held on May 26, June 2 and June 9. Participants will be told when, how, from whom and at what price capital should be recruited; and will be taught to regard capital recruitment as a process rather than an end unto itself. They will also receive guidelines on how to present a business program to potential investors, and how to estimate the value and cost of a business.

21.5 A conference dealing with diverse issues is being hosted at the Jerusalem International Convention Center by the Israel Economic Association. Papers to be presented include: "The effects of

liberalization on capital markets"; "Public choice in matters of economics"; "The Palestinian economy before and after the Paris Protocol of 1994"; and supervising electricity supplies and the cost of fuel."

24.5 Medical applications involving the use of maggots, leeches and bee venom will be among the subjects discussed at the Third International Conference on Biotherapy, co-sponsored by the Department of Parasitology and the Sanford K. Kuvim Center for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, and the International Biotherapy Society. The four-day conference will be held at Kibbutz Ma'ale Hahamisha.

26.5 Changes taking place in the rural sector have prompted the Center for Regional Councils to organize a two-day seminar on The Economics of Local Authorities to be held at the Neve Ilan Hotel. Speakers including Interior Minister Eliahu Suissa, Housing Ministry Director-General Shlomo Greenberg, Finance Minister Yaakov Neuman and various heads of local councils and their umbrella organizations will discuss the economic potential of industry, trade and tourism in these areas, alongside municipal development and management potential.

27.5 With restitution payments so much in the news, Tel Aviv University's Buchman Faculty of Law has organized a timely two-day conference on The Law of Restitution. Among the subjects tabled for discussion are "Restitution in contract"; "Restitution and property rights"; and "Stripping a criminal of the profits of the crime."

'Carasso effect' strikes the TASE

Israel's senior foreign analyst Daniel Carasso, who was poached by Goldman Sachs only three months ago, is rocking the market with his recently published favorable report

MARKET WATCH

By DAN GREENBERG

While the general public continues to shun the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, foreign investors remain the strongest force in the market and the driving power behind its most recent rise. The standstill in the peace talks and the slowing economy seem to have only a limited influence on the willingness of foreigners to spend money on Israeli securities.

Industry sources often say that as long as share prices are relatively attractive, and the political and economic situations remain stable, foreign investors will continue to invest here. For overseas investors, the Israeli economy is more attractive than other developing markets, and therefore they are willing to take the risks associated with the sensitive geo-political situation.

The strong presence of foreign investors was reinforced last week when Saul (Sam) Bronfeld, managing director of the TASE, published figures indicating that holdings of overseas investors in the local stock market more than doubled during the last three, from \$2.2 billion at the end of 1994 to \$5.5b. at the end of last year.

According to Bronfeld, rising involvement of foreign investors was a major factor leading to the constant rise of the bourse since summer 1996.

Apart from pushing the market upward, the interest demonstrated by international investment houses forced local securities firms to become more professional in order to meet the special requirements of foreign investors. One of the major changes was in the research industry, where the introduction of new analysis methods

led to a complete rethink in the way Israeli analysts examine companies.

A couple of weeks ago this column reported on the growing influence of foreign analysts on the local bourse. Recent events have illustrated the full extent of this impact.

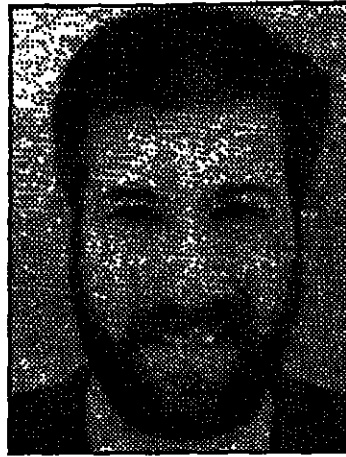
The Maof 25 index of leading Israeli companies at the end of April lost some 3.5 percent in only three days, following the publishing of a report by Merrill Lynch's analysts downgrading their recommendations for Israel's leading banks. The index has now fully recovered. Once again, the change is attributed to a foreign analyst — only this time the flame was ignited by the newest player in the local stock market, Goldman Sachs & Co., which started operating in Israel only last March.

At that time, industry sources predicted that it would only be a matter of time before the most profitable American investment house would become one of the most dominant players in the local market in the fields of investment banking and market research.

The first move of Goldman was to poach Daniel Carasso, former head of research at UBS Securities, which for the last two years has been the largest foreign investor on the local bourse and the first overseas institution to become a member of the TASE.

At the age of 36, Carasso, who was voted as Israel's top analyst by Institutional Investor magazine for the second consecutive year, holds a unique position as one of the most influential people in the local securities world.

Carasso's capability to market recommended shares to foreign investors was fully demonstrated this month on his visit to the US, when he introduced Goldman's clients to Israeli companies for the first time.



Carasso: pushing the TASE to new heights (Gideon Markowicz)

During the trip, Carasso presented investors with a report titled "What to buy when shopping in Israel." The reaction to the report came immediately with activity in the 17 stocks included in the document rising sharply, pushing the Maof index to new highs. The local press, which was overwhelmed by the impact, rushed to describe last week's rally as the "Carasso effect."

In the document, Carasso warmly recommends Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, the First International Bank of Israel, Super-Sol, Blue Square Chain Investments and Property and its parent company Blue Square Israel.

Another five companies were rated as "market outperformers" including Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, ECI Telecom, Osem Investment, Tadiran Telecom and its parent company Tadiran, while 4 companies — Elie, Israel Chemicals and its two subsidiaries, Dead Sea Works and Dead Sea Bromine — were rated "market perform."

The lowest rating — market underperform — was given only to two companies, Israel Discount

Bank and Industrial Buildings, which was one of Carasso's favorite stocks when he was still working for UBS.

In addition to setting attractive price targets, Carasso presented his forecasts for the Israeli economy. The optimistic analyst predicts that the Israeli GDP, which is officially expected to be below 1.9% in 1998, will surge to 4% next year. According to him, inflation will fall this year to 5% and will continue to decline to only 4% in 1999. In the report Carasso also states that the shekel will trade at NIS 3.85 per dollar at the end of this year and at NIS 3.97 at the end of next year.

Apparently, Carasso's forecasts convinced Goldman's clients that the TASE is an attractive enough market. In the past it has been proven that his recommendations were usually quite accurate, with shares recommended by him rising

sharply. It has been argued, however, that his predictions are also somehow a self-fulfilling prophecy, as the market liquidity is limited and high activity of foreign investors in a small number of shares leads immediately to a sharp price increase.

Carasso's recent predictions concerning the economy, which are more optimistic than those presented by local economists, provide a rare opportunity to examine whether Israelis are naturally negative or just plain realistic.

His opponents would certainly claim that his forecasts are influenced by the fact that most foreign analysts' salaries are in line with their marketing abilities and that a favorable report is definitely making marketing much easier. Others may say that Israelis are usually only looking at the empty half of the cup. Time will tell.

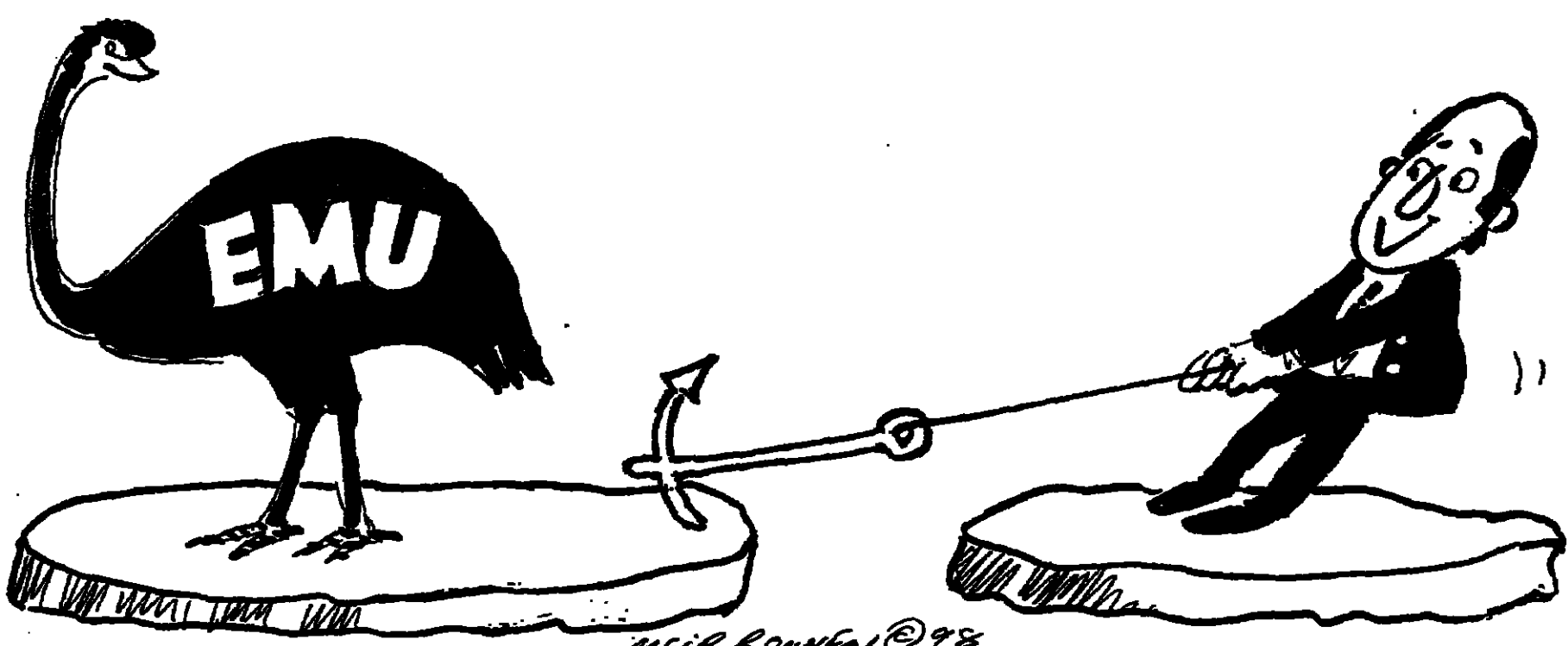
Goldman Sachs's favorite Israeli stocks

Company	Rating	Target Price	Price 15/5/98
Bank Hapoalim	Market Performer	14	11.04
Bank Leumi	Market Performer	10	7.26
First International Bank	Market Performer	11.5	10.39
Blue Square Israel	Market Performer	8.5	16.80
Blue Square Chain	Market Performer	8.2	4.75
Super-Sol	Market Performer	8.2	17.25
Teva	Market Performer	12.5	11.88
ECI Telecom	Market Performer	9.8	20.88
Osem Investment	Market Performer	9.4	11.75
Tadiran Telecom	Market Performer	9.0	15.75
Other	Market Underperformer	8.8	17.50

* Price in dollars

The continental drift

With Britain shunning the EMU for now, American investors are seeking new opportunities within the euro's newly defined realm of 11 countries



MEIR ROBINSON © 98

By SUSAN MARSHALL

NEW YORK — US investors are convinced Europe's common currency will be a boon for the companies of the euro's 11 founding members — to the detriment of UK shares, with Britain deciding not to join the euro.

"I very much favor continental Europe at the moment," said Ron Chapman, head of international equities at Dreyfus Corp. "I strongly, times three, favor continental Europe over the UK."

The abolition of national currencies is expected to make it easier for companies to sell products and services to their European neighbors, driving prices down to the lowest levels prevailing in the region. Buyers will be able to purchase from any company offering the best deal without having to be concerned that currency shifts will undermine cross-border transactions.

Because the British government, concerned Britons aren't willing to exchange their pounds for euros, has said it won't consider joining EMU until mid-2002, UK companies will miss out on those benefits. When Germany's Bayerische Motoren Werke AG is seeking parts for its saloons, for example, it's likely to pick a supplier able to offer a price in euros, rather than a British manufacturer quoting prices in pounds.

"There is so much going on in Europe, and you have to be involved there," said Michael

Price, the president of Franklin Mutual Series Fund, who was deemed the "most influential person in the US fund industry" in the September 1997 edition of Smart Money magazine. "We have to get prepared for EMU."

Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Finland earlier this month were selected as the 11 founding nations to begin using the euro in January.

"Investors will think twice about investing in the UK," said Mirene Etcheverry, co-manager of the John Hancock International Equity Fund in Boston, which invests about 55 percent of its \$34 billion outside of the US. "Short-term attention will be on euro countries first, Europe second and the UK third."

The Dreyfus Global Growth Fund, which Chapman manages, has about \$100 million invested internationally, \$45m. of which is in continental Europe with about \$8m. in Britain. Chapman said he is "underweight severely" in the UK. Britain has elected to remain outside of the union, not least because its economy is growing faster than those of most of its European counterparts taking part in the single currency. The government has said it will have to be convinced the currency union is promoting growth and keeping inflation subdued — and its citizens will have to approve joining the euro in a referendum — before it will

consider becoming a member of European economic and monetary union.

"I believe the future course of the UK economy will be damaged if they don't become a part of EMU," said Chapman, who remarked that even if Britain joins at a later date, "it will always make them a weak member."

"Imagine if some of your friends were taking on a new risky endeavor and a couple of years later you want to join on the same terms," said Chapman. "I mean, who took the risk?"

Already, gains in Europe's major stock indexes have outpaced Britain's FT-SE 100, which typically serves as the region's benchmark, so far this year. The FT-SE 100 has gained about 15% in the year, underperforming gains of 40% in Italy's MIB30, Europe's most profitable market this year.

The UK has also lagged a 34% rise in the CAC40 index of top French stocks, a 36% increase in Spain's IBEX 35 index, and better than 27% in the benchmark index of Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. US stocks, as measured by the 16% gain in the Dow Jones Industrial Average, have also underperformed Europe.

European stocks have been driven higher by accelerating corporate profits, coupled with falling interest rates as countries battled to get their economies into shape to qualify for the single currency. Stocks are also getting an additional boost from mergers and

acquisitions, such as last week's agreement by Germany's Daimler-Benz AG to buy Chrysler Corp., the US's third-largest automaker.

The creation of global companies is helping to wake US investors up to the benefits the creation of the euro is likely to bring in Europe. Moreover, Europe's economies are growing faster than their US counterparts.

"I'm not finding too many opportunities in the US," David Tepper, president and CEO of New Jersey-based Appaloosa Partners, Inc., told a charity investment research conference.

CONFIDENCE in the outlook for continental European companies is gaining among international investors, in part prompted by the success of Europe's political leaders in allaying concern that the euro would be a weak currency. "There is another story in the world besides the US, and that's Europe," said Greg Smith, chief market strategist at Prudential Securities Inc. "EMU is creating a large unified European market and there are enormous opportunities there."

Investors also expect the onset of EMU to prompt a faster pace of mergers and acquisitions as companies try to attain critical mass in a new and more competitive market. For financial-services companies, for example, the ability to sell insurance and offer banking services across 11 countries in one currency, plus the need to

compete with the global banking giants being forged in the US, likely will force more mergers.

"The financial and insurance sectors will gain," said Etcheverry at the John Hancock International Equity Fund. "There definitely will be consolidation among the strongest of those."

For British companies, hamstrung with a currency that's swung by 10% against the currencies of its major trading partners in the past year, and official interest rates of 7.25%, almost double the rate expected to govern the 11 euro members, mergers look less likely. "There will be far more cross-border deals in Europe," said Franklin Mutual's Price, who added he'll be looking to buy stocks with small and mid-sized market capitalizations "where you'll see deals when barriers come down."

While the economies of the countries joining the euro still aren't completely in sync — the European Union estimates prices rose by 0.8% in France in March, for example, compared with 2.1% in Italy — the success of all 11 countries in getting their deficits down to 3% of gross domestic product or less means there's a track record of success.

"EMU has not happened overnight so whatever the advantage, it has already been partly recognized by the market," said Etcheverry. "But it will certainly focus investor attention on euro countries as opposed to European countries." (Bloomberg)

Building Blocks

By NVA GILBERT

JERUSALEM

A seven-room, 210-sq.-m. penthouse was sold recently to a foreign resident for \$1.1 million in the Mishkeni HaEzer project in the center of Jerusalem, on Rehov Hagardim. A four-room apartment was also sold for \$430,000. The building has 48 high-standard apartments, 15 of which are still for sale. The project is a joint venture of Mishkeni and the Jewish building company, Mishkeni specializes in building projects for religious groups, but Mishkeni is also open to the general public. However, all apartments have double doors and there is a Shabbat elevator. Occupancy is scheduled for February, 1999.

■ Near the Holyland Hotel in Ramat Shimon, a 100-sq.-m. penthouse with a 270-sq.-m. garden in a high-standard building was sold for \$413,000 by Century 21. The apartment also has a swimming pool, parking space and a storage room.

■ On Rehov Eshkol in Ramat Shimon, a 150-sq.-m. penthouse on the second floor with a terrace and an elevator was sold for \$461,000 to British buyers. The apartment, which has views from its porches, was renovated by its owners. The property was sold by the Capital and Markets agencies via the Shalom Real Estate Services, after two months on the market.

■ In Nahlat, on Rehov Kfar Baran, a small one-room house on a 46-sq.-m. plot was built for another 340 sq.m. was sold for \$145,000 by Yaelim, via Shalom. The house needs to be demolished and a two-story house with an attic and a basement can be built on the land. The house was sold after three months on the market.

■ On Rehov Eshkol in Ramat Shimon, a 150-sq.-m. penthouse on the second floor with a terrace and an elevator was sold for \$461,000 to British buyers. The apartment, which has views from its porches, was renovated by its owners. The property was sold by the Capital and Markets agencies via the Shalom Real Estate Services, after two months on the market.

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community built along a 300-meter-long strip. Sales are expected to reach \$300m.

■ A four-room, 100-sq.-m. apartment with a terrace on the second floor was sold for \$210,000 by Century 21. The apartment has a parking space and an elevator. The agent also sold a four-room, 110-sq.-m. apartment on Rehov Hagardim in Nahlat Yehoshua for \$245,000.

■ Near the set in north Tel Aviv, a three-room apartment on Rehov Hagardim was sold for \$260,000 by Century 21. The apartment has a parking space and an elevator. The agent also sold a four-room, 110-sq.-m. apartment on Rehov Hagardim in Nahlat Yehoshua for \$245,000.

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	LAST	CHANGE*
Interlake	4.5825	-0.0625
Int'l Flaw & Fr	49.0825	-0.1875
Int'l Multiboods	29.375	-0.4375
Int'l Paper	52.8875	-0.5625
Interpublic	50.9375	0

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BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME - Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger holds both the League and FA Cup trophies during a victory parade in London on Sunday. (Reuters)

Ajax share Arsenal's double vision

LONDON, May 17 (Reuters) - Arsenal and Dutch giants Ajax Amsterdam completed league and Cup doubles this weekend as the European soccer season wound down ahead of the World Cup.

Arsenal beat Newcastle 2-0 in the FA Cup final at Wembley while Ajax thumped PSV Eindhoven 5-0 in the final of the Dutch Cup.

Bayern Munich won the German Cup with a 2-1 win over MSV Duisburg and Hearts shocked Rangers by the same score in the Scottish Cup final.

In league action Brescia and Atlanta Bergamo were relegated from Italy's Serie A, while Athletic Bilbao clinched the second European Cup spot in the Spanish first division.

ENGLAND Arsenal won the league and Cup double for the second time in their history with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Newcastle United in the FA Cup final.

Goals from Dutchman Marc Overmars after 24 minutes and Nicolas Anelka after 69 gave the champions a merited victory and the third double in England in the last five seasons following Manchester United in 1994 and 1996.

NETHERLANDS Ajax Amsterdam won the Dutch Cup Final, and their sixth league and Cup double, with a one-sided 5-0 victory over PSV Eindhoven.

Ajax scored through Nigerian Tijani Babangida, Georgian Shota Arveladze and a hat-trick from Finn Jari Litmanen to beat PSV for the first time in three years.

PSV's defense struggled to contain Ajax's

varied attack and right-back Andre Ooijer was sent off in the 75th minute.

Police made around 70 arrests following skirmishes between fans.

GERMANY A late goal by midfielder Mario Basler allowed Bayern Munich to beat MSV Duisburg 2-1 and lift the German Cup for the first time in 12 years.

Bayern, who had won the trophy a record eight times but not since 1986, clinched the victory when Basler struck from a free kick with one minute remaining.

Duisburg had gone ahead after 20 minutes through Toggles striker Bachirou Salou but Markus Babel hit a 70th-minute equalizer for Bayern, whose Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni is returning home to coach Fiorentina next season.

ITALY Brescia and Atalanta Bergamo were relegated to Italy's Serie B on Saturday while Piacenza clung on to their first division status by winning 3-1 at Lecce.

Both Brescia and Atalanta went down fighting. Brescia won 3-1 at Parma while Atalanta held newly-crowned champions Juventus to a 1-1 draw in Bergamo in a match suspended for 12 minutes due to a second-half pitch invasion.

SPAIN Athletic Bilbao clinched a place in the European Cup ahead of Real Sociedad and Real Madrid in a frantic final day in the Spanish first division.

Athletic beat Real Zaragoza 1-0 to finish second in the table behind Barcelona.

Athletic finished two points ahead of Real

Sociedad and Real Madrid, who won their games by the same score.

Real Sociedad, Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Celta Vigo will play the UEFA Cup and Mallorca in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Merida will accompany Sporting Gijon to the second division after losing 2-0 to Celta Vigo. Oviedo and Compostela will face teams from the second division in the relegation play-offs.

SCOTLAND Hearts lifted their first trophy in 36 years when they won the Scottish Cup by beating Glasgow Rangers 2-1 in the final.

Hearts took the lead inside the opening minute when captain Steve Fulton was brought down in the penalty box by Ian Ferguson and Colin Cameron beat Andy Goram from the spot.

Hearts went further ahead in the 53rd minute through Frenchman Stephane Adam.

Rangers struck back in the 81st minute when substitute Ally McCoist scored, but Hearts hung on for their first Scottish Cup success since 1956 and their first trophy since 1962.

BELGIUM Guinea striker Souleymane Oulare scored twice within two first-half minutes to set up a 4-0 victory for Genk against favorites Club Brugge in the Belgian Cup final.

It was a first major trophy for Genk, who finished runners-up to Bruges in the league.

DENMARK Brøndby won the Danish title for the third successive year after drawing 0-0 with Silkeborg in the superleague.

The point gave them an unbeatable 11-point lead over FC Copenhagen with three matches left.

Former Olympians honored at Tel Aviv stamp show

By JOEL GORDIN

Four former Olympic greats were feted in Tel Aviv yesterday as part of Olympic Day, organized by the Israel Philatelic Society and the Israel Olympic Committee.

Slovenian gymnast Leon Stukol, Kenyan middle-distance runner Kip Keino, Italian sprinter Luigi Buiti and Polish middle-distance runner Irena Shebanaska were the guests of honor at the opening of the national stamp exhibition at the Tel Aviv Show Grounds.

During Olympic Day, emphasis was given to the thousands of stamps commemorating Olympic Games which have been issued

over the years.

Stukol, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday, won his six Olympic medals for Yugoslavia at the 1924, 1928 and 1936 Olympics. The spy centennial, who was for many years a judge after he retired from athletics, attributed his longevity to his love of sport. He said he was happy to have accomplished his dream of visiting the Holy Land. Each of the visitors made a short speech in honor of Stukol.

Keino, whose win in the 1,500m. at the 1972 Munich Olympics is still regarded as one of the most electrifying races in Olympic history spoke about the

horrors of the terrorist attack on the Israeli team that he witnessed from the window of his bedroom. "The Israelis were my neighbors and I had become friendly with them," he recalled. "The massacre was a tragedy for sport and it should not have happened."

Shebanaska, who won her medals in 1964, 1968, 1972 and 1976, and Buiti (1960, 1964 and 1968) both expressed the hope that Israel "would be left in peace to concentrate on sport."

Israeli judoka Yael Arad who won a silver medal at Barcelona in 1992, paid tribute to the visitors and thanked them for taking time to visit Israel.

Smoking, drinking, carousing ... that'll be Gazza

LONDON (AP) - While England coach Glenn Hoddle got big coverage in the papers yesterday for publicly expressing his "spiritual" beliefs, Paul Gascoigne was pilloried for smoking, drinking and staying out late only three weeks before the start of the World Cup.

Hoddle spoke at length about his spiritual experiences while Gascoigne, photographed out on the town with his drinking friends, said his big ambition is to see a UFO.

"They're real, they've got to be," Gascoigne was quoted as saying in the Times. "I even think they stop and pull people on board for a couple of hours. UFO's are a definite fact and I've got to see one soon. I've got to."

Gascoigne, who last week admitted to smoking 20 cigarettes a day, teamed up with the rest of the World Cup squad yesterday for England's final preparations.

Hoddle hinted he would crack down on his colorful, sometimes wayward star to make sure he is preparing properly for the biggest competition in world soccer.

"I've had words with him and I'll have more words with him," Hoddle said in a BBC radio interview. "Certain things worry me and in certain things I still see he has genius in him."

"I've always said we're not out of the woods with Paul and I've said to him that he has to go 50-50 with me."

Hoddle added that Gascoigne is "not 100 percent" certain to be picked for the World Cup team.

Smashnova wins Porto tourney

Israeli women's tennis No. 1 Anna Smashnova on Saturday won a \$75,000 WTA event in Porto, Portugal by beating France's Alexia Dechaume-Balleret 6-2, 6-2 in the final.

Israel Tennis Association President Freddy Krivine said yesterday that Smashnova's win will see her re-enter the world's top 100 after last year slumping to an all-time low of 296 in the WTA rankings.

Smashnova's regained form means she should be able to gain direct entry to the French Open which begins next Monday, and probably also to Wimbledon which gets underway on June 22.

Ori Lewis

Channel 1 unveils World Cup coverage schedule

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Channel 1 has announced its intention to screen 130 hours of live World Cup soccer from France in June and July, Israel TV's heads announced last week.

A staggering 56 out of the 64 games are to be shown live in what will be the biggest World Cup ever, making the summer months a feast for soccer fans.

"I have been accused in the past of dedicating a lot of air-time to sports, but I'm happy to accept the blame here and plead guilty," said Israel Broadcasting Authority head Uri Porat.

With the upcoming World Cup increased to 32 national teams, Porat said that Channel 1 will present its biggest and best sporting event ever.

Yair Stern head of the news department said that this World Cup might be the last time that Channel 1 will screen the tournament as the rights for the 2002 and 2006 World Cups have been bought by a German syndicate.

Matches begin on June 10 and continue until the final on July 12. Channel 1's coverage will start on June 9 with a parade from the Champs Elysees to the Place de la Concorde, which will be followed

by a fireworks display.

Yoash Alroey head of the sports department said that the days of live coverage will be the most complete package of soccer Israeli fans have ever seen. "What you see on our channel today, you'll read about in the papers tomorrow is our slogan," said Alroey.

The 56-game broadcast package in an increase of 16 games compared to the last two World Cups. Three commentary crews will be in France, including commentators Meir Einstein, Rami Weitz and Zohir Bahul and analysts Avi Ratzon, Haim Baram and Zeev Zeltzer.

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RATES	DWELLINGS Jerusalem Area	DWELLINGS Tel Aviv	SITUATIONS VACANT Tel Aviv	VEHICLES Jerusalem	VEHICLES Jerusalem	VEHICLES Sharon Area
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d10270p

By ROB PARKER

And while it doesn't sound right, it was an "easy" perfect game.

his pitching ability. They love him because he's such a blue-collar kind of guy. If he wasn't pitching, he probably would be driving a cab.

Many New Yorkers can relate.
(Newsday)



On Sunday, it happened again.

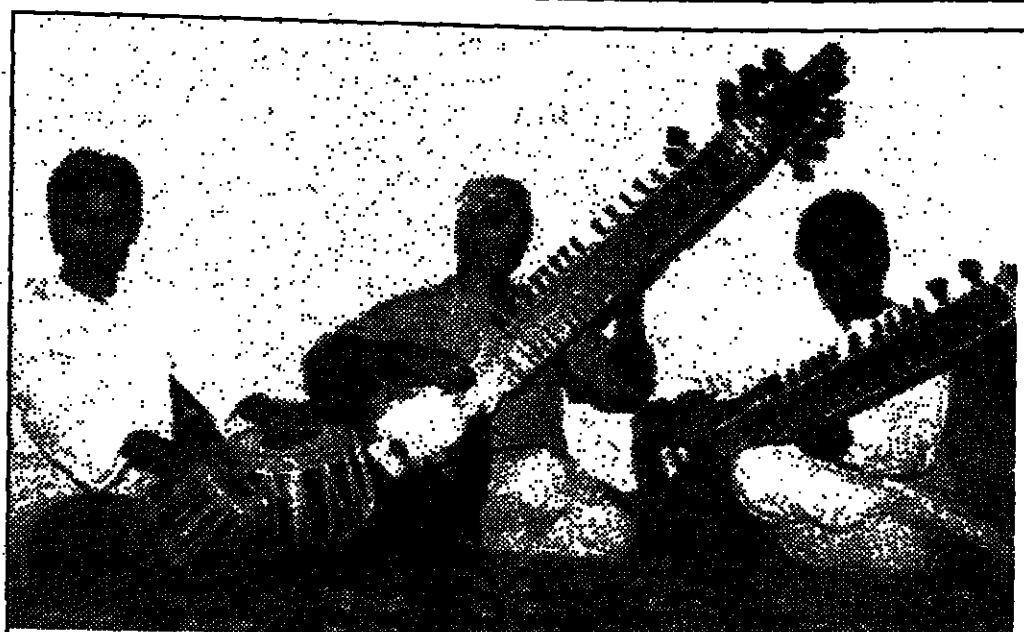
Special Mention
Ernie Shore Boston vs. Washington (A.L.), June 23, 1917. (Entered game after starter Babe Ruth walked Ray Morgan, and following an argument, was ejected by umpire Kirk Owens. Morgan was caught stealing and Shore retired the remaining 26 batters.)
Harvey Haddix Pittsburgh vs. Milwaukee (N.L.), Oct. 13, 1959. (Pitched 12 perfect batters, lost in 13th due to error, sacrifice bunt and walk and doubled out. After Walter Johnson of Cal. P.A.s, 1915-5, 1955, 13-10 innings, pitched 6 perfect innings, allowed lead-off homer in 14th, and was replaced by Mel Parnold, who finished one better in 1-0 win.)

black driver to make the lineup for the

1961 - Virgil I. Rubbs became the first black driver to make the lineup for the Indianapolis 500.

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CRITICS' CHOICE



Sitar players Rabindra Narayan Goswami and his brother Jibendra Narayan Goswami and tabla player Mani Shankar Tripathi present master classes and classical Indian music concerts.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Renowned Indian sitar player Rabindra Narayan Goswami, his brother Jibendra Narayan Goswami who also plays the sitar, and tabla (drums) player Mani Shankar Tripathi present classical Indian music concerts tomorrow night at the Jerusalem Music Center (8:30), Thursday at the Haifa Museum (8:30) and May 28 a jazz concert at the Enav Center in Tel Aviv (9) in which the visiting musicians will collaborate with local jazz musicians. Tomorrow morning and afternoon (9:30 a.m. - 12:30 and 3-5) they give a master class on Indian classical music at the Jerusalem Music Center.

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

UK director Sue Emmy Jennings's minimalist production of Aristophanes's *Lysistrata* is mostly in English, with some Hebrew and Arabic to drive home the point that living together means working together to achieve a good outcome. Not that this production is preachy. How could it be? It's a rude, funny boisterous story of some smart ladies who tell their men, "You stop fighting and we'll let you

back into our beds!" Tonight at Tel Hai College (06-6900970) at 6 p.m.

In Ra'anana, the Guild Theater features an evening of one-act plays by Jodi Schenk. *Once Through* is about the budding romance between a widower and a widow at the rehearsal for their children's wedding. It won the Doris Kershner Best Production award at the Pessah drama festival.

The second play is *Little Rainbow*, set in an apartment where two sisters are going through their dead mother's things. Tonight at Yad Lebanim at 8:30 p.m.

David Hare's *Amy's View* at the Cameri Theater stars Gitta Monte as Esme, an actress whose devotion to the stage leads to alienation from her only daughter. The Cameri Theater production is directed by Ido Riklin. Tonight on the mainstage at 8:30 p.m. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English).

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

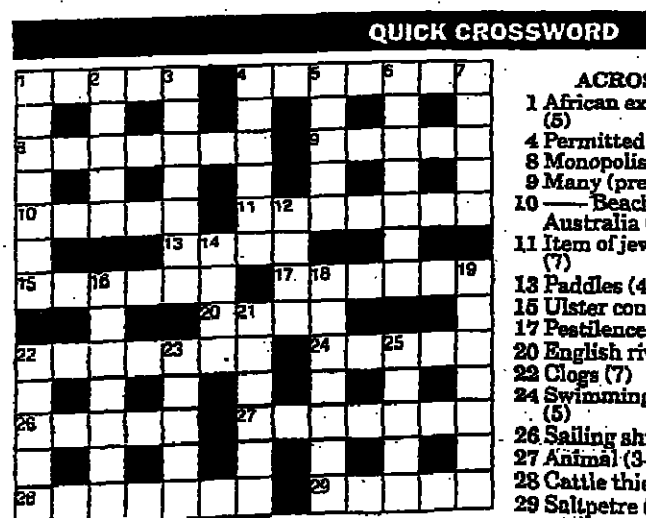
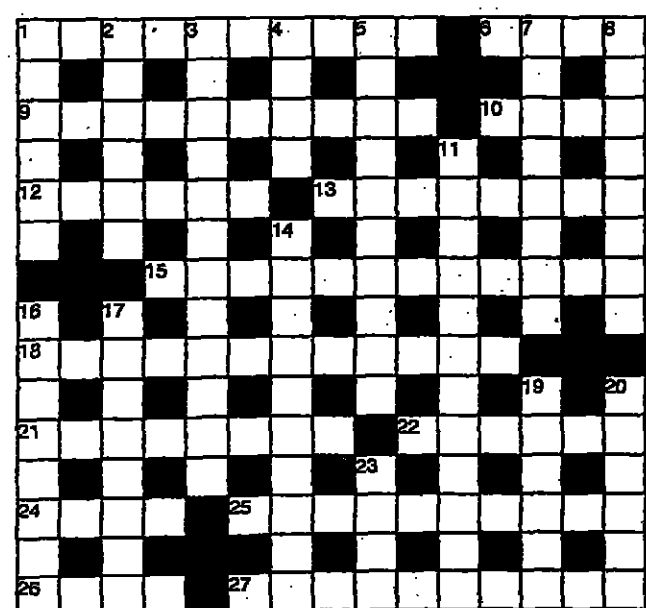
Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theater makes its local debut with the award-winning *Furioso*, a ritual about love which operates, quite literally, at every level, including some heart-stopping, gravity-defying flight sequences. Tonight through Thursday at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center at 8:30 p.m.

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 - Tooth, white when from London (4)
 - Certain four included were the most authoritative (10)
 - Vigour of brother before ten, it appears (4)
 - Left with your first musician (6)
 - It's to do with land, I hurried round Indian city first (8)
 - Rule not in the statute-book (9,3)
 - Steadily improving—or climbing? (2,3-2-2)
 - It restricts flight departures (8)
- DOWN
- Like a violin requiring much dexterity? (6)
 - Expedition fair as could be (6)
 - Does a verbose judge give stiff punishment? (4,8)
 - Doctor gets round ban (4)

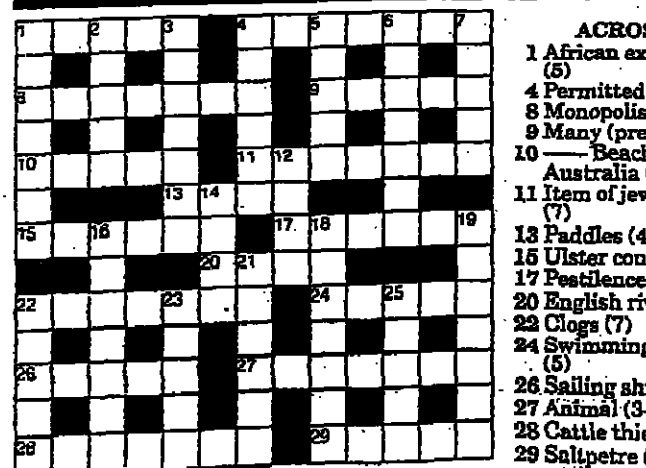


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Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1. Autumn, 4. Attic, 8. Train, 9. Jaeger, 10. Outlines, 11. Ezra, 12. Rot, 14. Oval, 15. Adze, 16. End, 21. Home, 23. Release, 25. Tension, 26. Auger, 27. Yield, 28. Sketch.
DOWN: 1. Author, 2. Tractor, 3. Mandible, 4. Good, 5. Trait, 6. Catapult, 7. Viper, 12. Tailback, 16. Draught, 17. Chatty, 19. Drink, 20. Dearth, 22. Mince, 24. Fled.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- African explorer (6)
 - Permitted (7)
 - Monopolies (7)
 - Many (prefix) (5)
 - Australia (5)
 - Item of jewellery (7)
 - Paddles (4)
 - Ullster county (6)
 - Peatfield (6)
 - English river (4)
 - Clogs (7)
 - Swimming stroke (5)
 - Sailing ship (5)
 - Animal (3-4)
 - Cattle thief (7)
 - Saltpetre (5)
- DOWN
- Effervescent drink (7)
 - Marbles (5)
 - An eating away (5)
 - Reply (6)
 - Ring-tailed monkey (5)
 - Ready and (7)
 - Accomplishing (5)
 - Snakes (4)
 - Yast age (4)
 - Appointments food (7)
 - Reading-deck (7)
 - Make bigger (7)
 - Money-lender (6)
 - Difficult question (5)
 - Eject (5)
 - Watchful (5)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel
10:00 World News
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Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Jordan wins 5th MVP

NORTHBROOK, Ill. (AP) — Michael Jordan won his fifth Most Valuable Player award yesterday, beating out Karl Malone and moving within one of the record set by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

He received 1,084 points to 842 for Malone, who was last year's surprise winner, from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters who cover the league's 29 teams. Jordan got 92 first-place votes to 20 for the Utah Jazz forward.

Jordan previously won the award in 1988, 1991, 1992 and 1996, and would have a chance to match Abdul-Jabbar's mark if he stays in basketball. Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics is the only other five-time winner.

Jordan led the league in scoring for the 10th time, although his 28.7 average was his lowest since his second year in the league.

He also had some of his worst career numbers in shooting percentage (46.5), free throw percentage (78.4), rebounds (5.8) and assists (3.5).

But the voters rewarded him for leading the Bulls to a 62-20 record — tied with Utah for the best in the league — despite the absence of teammate Scottie Pippen for 35 games after undergoing foot surgery.

Gary Payton of Seattle was third with three first-place votes and 431 points. Shaquille O'Neal of the Los Angeles Lakers finished fourth with 311 points, including the other first-place vote.

Bulls' defense stops Pacers

CHICAGO (AP) — Although Michael Jordan won the MVP award yesterday, they could have given it just as well to Scottie Pippen, based on what happened in Sunday's game.

Right from the start, Pippen confronted Indiana point guard Mark Jackson with 94 feet of in-your-face defense. The rest of the Bulls followed his lead as Chicago beat the Pacers 85-79 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

"I wanted to play Jackson, I wanted to make him have to work," Pippen said. "We felt Ron (Harper) could do a better job on Reggie (Miller) and give Michael more energy from an offensive standpoint."

With their playmaker unable to comfortably run the offense, the Pacers turned into an inept, bumbling bunch. And after the Bulls shook off their offensive cobwebs, they were on their way to a 1-0 lead in the best-of-7 series. Game 2 is tonight in Chicago.

Last night, the host Utah Jazz tried to take a 2-0 lead in their Western Conference final. The Jazz befuddled Shaquille O'Neal and the Lakers 112-77 in Game 1 on Saturday.

"That's something we looked at coming into this series," Pippen said of defending Indiana's point guard. "(Jackson) really makes that team click, and with ball pressure and my size, it sort of limits the offensive opportunities that he can have and also allows us to pressure the ball and not let him see our defense."

It was a scheme for which Indiana had no answer. And as the Pacers prepare to play Game 2 tonight, they'll undoubtedly be wondering what wrinkles the Bulls will come up with next.

Jordan struggled through a 1-for-9 first half, even missing three or four layups.

But he was his old self in the second half, scoring 25 of his 31 points as Chicago went ahead and stayed ahead.

"I told Michael he'd have to use his energy on the offensive end," Pippen said. "I was getting tired on the defensive end."

The Pacers made only one run in the second half, pulling to 66-65 early in the fourth before Jordan made three shoveling plays.

The first was a weaving drive, including a crossover dribble, through three defenders for a layup that made it 70-65. The second



STAMPEDE — Bulls Scottie Pippen (r) goes up for a shot as Pacers' Reggie Miller guards. (Reuters)

was a backdoor cut behind Jalen Rose for a reverse layup and three-point play, and last was a jumper with 5:13 remaining for a nine-point lead.

And on a day when Chicago was playing defense so well, even that margin was too much to overcome.

Jordan had five of Chicago's 19 steals, and Pippen — who guarded Jackson most of the game — had four. Chicago forced the Pacers

into 26 turnovers to overcome a 1-for-9 shooting performance by Pippen and a 2-for-11 afternoon for Toni Kukoc.

"It's scary to see how good Scottie is," Steve Kerr said.

"He's 1-for-9 and scores four points and totally dominated the game. That's why he's one of the greatest players ever. He doesn't have to score to control the game."

Jackson had seven of Indiana's turnovers and Rik Smits and Dale Davis added four each.

"There's only one Scottie Pippen," Jackson said. "He did a great job. It's uncharacteristic of us to turn the ball over that many times." The Pacers know they will have to make adjustments in Game 2 to deal with the Bulls' defense.

"We anticipated wrong," Miller said. "To tell you the truth, I was looking to have Scottie on me and (Jordan) guarding Mark. They threw us for a loop. This sends us back to the drawing board."

Jordan's dunk 32 seconds into the third quarter put the Bulls in front for good, 41-40.

Indiana 22 29 27 22-79
Chicago 16 21 27 22-79
INDIANA (79) Miller 1-4 0-2 0-2, D. Davis 5-6 6-10, Smits 4-10 1-2 0-2, Jackson 5-13 2-2 1-5, Miller 2-14 4-5 1-5, McGehee 1-3 2-4 0-4, Adams 3-6 8-12, Rose 3-8 0-0 0-0, P. Miller 0-0 0-0 0-0, Best 3-6 1-2 0-2, Totals 30-66 16-35 7-19.
CHICAGO (85) Pippen 1-9 2-4 4, Kukoc 2-10 0-4, Longley 4-10 4-4 12, Harper 5-8 3-5 15, Jordan 11-28 6-10 31, Washington 1-3 0-2 0-2, Rodman 3-6 5-10 11, Burrell 1-3 0-0 0-2, Brown 0-1 4-4 4, Kerr 0-1 0-0 0-0, Buckner 0-0 0-0 0-0, Singler 0-0 0-0 0-0, Totals 30-61 20-41 27-85.
FOOTED OUT—Kukoc, Rodman.
REBOUNDING—Indiana 53 (D. Davis 11), Chicago 54 (Rodman 10), Adams—Indiana 15 (Jackson 6), Chicago 19 (Pippen 7). Total fouls—Indiana 28, Chicago 25. Technical—Rodman, A-23, 34-4.

Maccabi TA routs Hapoel Eilat

By ELI GRONER

Eilat forward Joe Dawson's strong presence in the National Basketball League semifinals showed just how valuable he is. In Game 1 of the finals, that point was made all the more evident, as Maccabi Tel Aviv utilized Dawson's absence to thrash the southerners, 97-64, in Yad Eliahu last night.

Game 2 of the best-of-five series will take place in Eilat on Thursday.

Eilat's play was epitomized by Dawson's replacement, Chris Shabat. Shabat seemed happy to just be on the court, and didn't really expect to compete. He played with a fear in his eyes that is usually reserved for schoolyard bullies, and was clearly intimidated by Maccabi's big men — Rashard Griffith and Randy White — who did as they pleased throughout the first half, before resting for most of the second with the game well in hand.

The four-time defending champions established a double-digit lead, 16-6, after only three minutes, when Shabat committed an ugly turnover and then an even uglier flagrant foul on Oded Katash.

Griffith was dominating inside,

scoring 11 of his 14 points in the first 12 minutes. While provided some unexpected outside assistance, burying 4-of-4 three-point attempts in the first nine minutes.

While Maccabi's foreigners got them out of the gate, Doron Sheffer shouldered the scoring load at the outset of the second half, scoring 10 points during the first six minutes. From that point on, it was purely garbage time, as Maccabi extended its finals' winning streak to 13.

Amir Katz was the lone bright spot for Eilat, tallying 19 points. He got little assistance from Eddie Elisma, who scored only eight points before the referees fouled him out of the game on the worst call of a poorly officiated contest.

Eilat guard Meir Tapiro said after the game: "We just lost our focus for a few minutes."

It seemed more like 40. In the playoffs for third place and a spot in next year's Korac Cup competition, Game 1 between Hapoel Jerusalem and Hapoel Eilat was halted with Jerusalem ahead 43-40 when a slam dunk by Jerusalem's Kenny Williams shattered the backboard.

An official committee will meet to decide if the game will be continued.

Seven-a-side rugbys come to town

By JOEL GORDIN

The four southern hemisphere teams taking part in the Jerusalem International Rugby Sevens Tournament will arrive here today after taking the top positions at the Paris Sevens Tournament that ended on Sunday.

Fiji, New Zealand, Australia and Samoa were the semifinalists at Paris where New Zealand beat Fiji and Australia triumphed over Samoa. In the finals, Australia defeated the All Blacks 33-26. Australian captain, the legendary David Campese, was one of the stars of his country's win. Other leading teams taking part were France, Scotland, Argentina, Korea, Canada and the South African Barbarians.

The six-nation Jerusalem tournament, the most ambitious rugby venture ever launched in this country, will be held at the capital's Teddy Stadium. It will kick off at 17:00 tomorrow with the pool tournament. The finals will be held on Thursday night, also starting at

17:00. The other teams taking part in the tournament are Spain and Israel.

The local team will be reinforced by three Fiji players, all members of the United Nations Forces serving in the Middle East.

"The Jerusalem tournament will now have special significance. We will be going all-out to avenge our defeat at Paris," stated Fiji team manager Johnny Buakula.

"Jerusalem rugby fans are in for a feast of the world's best rugby and the rivalry between the teams will ensure a wonderful competition," said tournament director Adi Raz.

Entrance to the tournament costs NIS 50. The ticket, which is good for both nights, can be bought at the stadium. The games will not be shown live on television although the matches will be filmed by Channel Five for showing on a date to be announced.

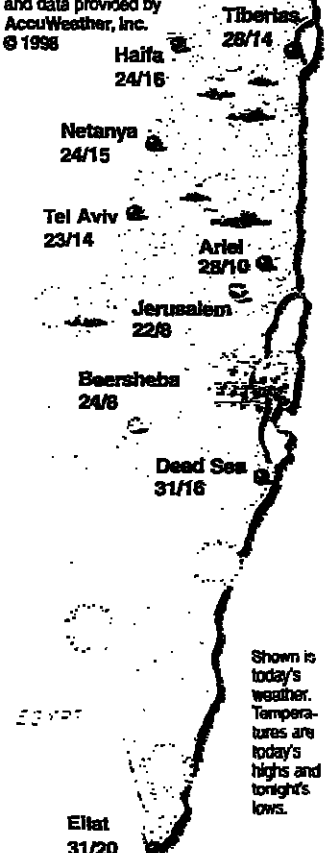
The tournament prize money totals \$35,000 for the winners, \$10,000 for the runnersup and \$5,000 for the third placed team.

AIR CANADA

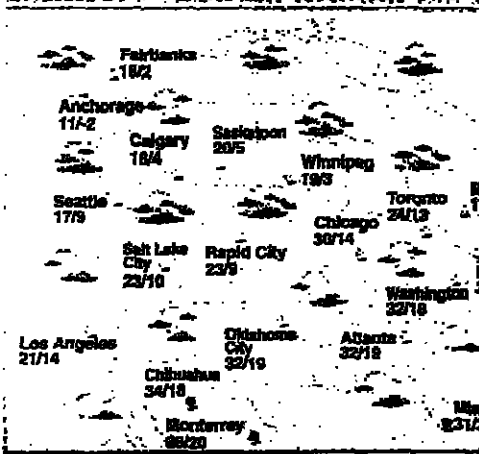
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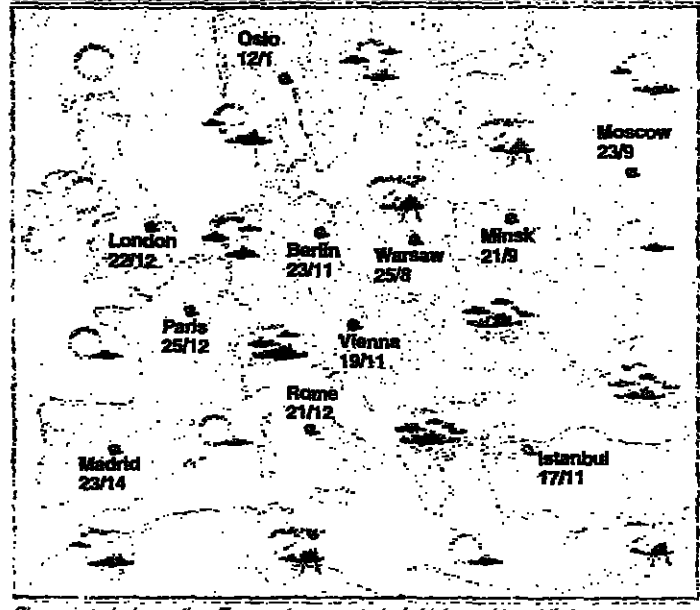
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NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jerusalem	24/15	24/15	24/15	24/15	24/15
Tel Aviv	23/14	23/14	23/14	23/14	23/14
Haifa	24/15	24/15	24/15	24/15	24/15
Beersheva	24/15	24/15	24/15	24/15	24/15
Eilat	31/20	31/20	31/20	31/20	31/20

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, sleet, snow, fog, haze.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
London	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12
Paris	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12
Rome	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12
Madrid	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12
Istanbul	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Change of Address and Voting: Warning

The public is hereby informed that the following is considered an offense according to the Local Elections Law:

1. Falsely informing the Population Registry that one has moved to a different town, as a result of which the person's name is registered in the voters roll of that town.
2. Voting in that town in the following elections, after so changing one's address.

The punishment for this offense is three years imprisonment.

Vote Legally - Avoid Unpleasantness



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